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**Conference of the Parties to the  
Minamata Convention on Mercury  
Fifth meeting**  
Geneva, 30 October–3 November 2023

## **Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury at its fifth meeting**

### **MC-5/1: The effects of mercury pollution on Indigenous Peoples and on local communities**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Reaffirming* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of June 1992, as well as General Assembly resolution 70/1 of September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/54/12 on human rights and Indigenous Peoples,

*Recalling also* World Health Assembly resolution WHA76.16 of May 2023 entitled “The health of Indigenous Peoples”,

*Recalling further* decision MC-4/4, which calls on parties to engage Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of national action plans pertaining to article 7 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

*Noting with concern* that Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, are particularly vulnerable to mercury exposure and are among the first to face the serious health and environmental effects resulting from mercury pollution owing to their close relationship with the environment and its resources, and welcoming the role of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, and particularly the engagement of women and girls, who have faced the effects of mercury with resilience, in achieving the objective of the Minamata Convention and the targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recognizing* that respect for Indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment,

1. *Notes* the importance of broadening participation of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, in the implementation of projects and programmes undertaken under the Minamata Convention;
2. *Encourages* parties to support, as appropriate, participation of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations, as well as local communities and other relevant stakeholders, in meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and in other related processes;
3. *Encourages* parties and other relevant stakeholders to promote policies that enable Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, to benefit from, as well as contribute to, the dissemination of information, awareness and education on emissions and releases of mercury, including through the Indigenous Peoples Platform of the Minamata Convention;

4. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to compile views, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on the needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, with regard to the effects of mercury on their health, livelihoods, culture and knowledge, with a view to future work on identifying possible solutions.

## **MC-5/2: Mercury supply sources and trade**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting with appreciation* the information provided by parties in their first full national reports covering the period from entry into force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury until 31 December 2020, and the progress made by parties in meeting their obligations under article 3 of the Convention,

*Welcoming in particular* the progress made by parties in phasing out mercury use in chlor-alkali production ahead of the 2025 deadline set out in part I of annex B to the Convention,

*Noting* that, notwithstanding the progress made so far, parties expressed the need to receive additional support and assistance to strengthen the implementation of article 3,

1. *Recalls* that paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 3 require parties to control primary mercury mining, notes that parties in their reports have characterized primary mercury mining as “formal”, “informal” or “illegal”, and encourages parties to report on all primary mercury mining activities being carried out in their territories, irrespective of their status as formal, informal or illegal, in their next national reports;

2. *Encourages* parties that did not receive consent for all exports of mercury from the party’s territory to provide more information, if any, in their next national reports, including on measures taken to prevent exports which are not in compliance with the Convention;

3. *Encourages* parties to promote joint campaigns and training opportunities to strengthen the capacity of enforcement officers, including customs officers, to control mercury trade at the national level;

4. *Invites* parties to submit to the secretariat information on experiences and challenges faced in the implementation of article 3 as well as information on activities undertaken in relation to the Bali Declaration on combating illegal trade in mercury by March 2025, and requests the secretariat to compile the information received for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting;

5. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Draft an update to 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 as per paragraph 5 (a) of article 3 of the Convention, defined in paragraph 3 of decision MC-4/8 as an ongoing effort, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting;

(b) Support parties in better understanding the trade provisions, their interrelation with other articles of the Convention, and the use of trade forms adopted by the Conference of the Parties, in particular with respect to imports from non-parties;

(c) Work on awareness-raising activities related to provisions of the Convention on allowed uses and sources of mercury in order to assist parties to comply with article 3 requirements;

(d) Broaden its cooperation with the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, such as the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, to strengthen the implementation of article 3 provisions;

(e) Develop guidance to assist parties in identifying, managing and reducing mercury trade from primary mercury mining;

(f) Facilitate the exchange of any trade-related information the secretariat has received from parties pursuant to paragraph 6 of article 3, and which the parties concerned have not objected to sharing with other parties;

6. *Invites* parties, the Global Environment Facility, the Global Mercury Partnership and other stakeholders to support the activity set out in paragraph 5 (e) above.

### **MC-5/3: Study of the global supply, production, trade and use of mercury compounds**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* that paragraph 13 of Article 3 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury requires the Conference of the Parties to undertake an evaluation of whether the trade in mercury compounds compromises the Convention's objective of protecting human health and the environment,

*Aiming* to understand the current global supply sources, trade and uses of mercury compounds in order to take informed decisions in relation to the Convention,

*Recognizing* the benefits of a report containing this information,

*Noting* that such information is not included in parties' national reports,

*Taking into consideration* the 2017 United Nations Environment Programme report *Global Mercury Supply, Trade and Demand* and the 2023 report by the Natural Resources Defense Council on the feasibility of conducting a global inventory of mercury compound supply, use and trade,<sup>1</sup> which provides recommendations on the available sources of data on global mercury compound production and trade,

*Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to:

- (a) Initiate a study of the global supply, production, trade and use of mercury compounds;<sup>2</sup>
- (b) Present the report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting for consideration.

### **MC-5/4: Amendments to annexes A and B and the feasibility of mercury-free alternatives for manufacturing processes listed in annex B**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* that the Conference of the Parties, in decision MC-4/3, decided to consider the phase-out dates of four mercury-added products for part I of annex A and to consider adding the production of polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts to part I of annex B,

*Recalling also* that the Conference of the Parties, in the same decision, requested the secretariat to prepare a short report on the technical and economic feasibility of mercury-free alternatives for the two processes (vinyl chloride monomer, and sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate) listed in part II of annex B,

*Noting* that part II of annex B provides that parties are not to allow the use of mercury in vinyl chloride monomer production five years after the Conference of the Parties has established that mercury-free catalysts based on existing processes have become economically and technically feasible, and that parties are not to allow the use of mercury in sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate production five years after the Conference of the Parties has established that mercury-free processes have become technically and economically feasible,

*Having considered* the information made available pursuant to decision MC-4/3,

*Having considered also* the three proposals for amendments to annex A submitted by Botswana and Burkina Faso,

1. *Decides* to amend part I of annex A to the Convention as set out in the following table:<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/mercury-compounds-inventory-feasibility-study-202303.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> This work is intended to study mercury compounds that may be used in products or processes, or that can be converted to elemental mercury. It is not intended to cover mercury compounds that fall under the definition of mercury wastes in accordance with article 11 (2).

<sup>1</sup> Added entries are shaded in grey.

	<i>Date after which the manufacture, import or export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out date)</i>
<i>Mercury-added products</i>	
Batteries, except for button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%	2020
Button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%	2025
Switches and relays, except very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge, switch or relay	2020
Very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge switch or relay, except those used for research and development purposes	2025
Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner	2020
Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are > 30 watts	2026
Compact fluorescent lamps with an integrated ballast (CFL.i) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner	2025
Compact fluorescent lamps with a non-integrated ballast (CFL.ni) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner	2026
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (b) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp	2020
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 10 mg per lamp (b) Halophosphate phosphor > 40 watts	2026
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg/lamp (b) Triband phosphor ≥ 60 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp (c) Triband phosphor ≥ 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp	2027
Non-linear fluorescent lamps (NFLs) (e.g., U-bend and circular) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor, all wattages	2027
(b) Halophosphate phosphor, all wattages	2026
High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes	2020
Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays: (a) Short length (≤ 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp (b) Medium length (> 500 mm and ≤ 1,500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp (c) Long length (> 1,500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp	2020
Cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFL) and external electrode fluorescent lamps (EEFL) of all lengths for electronic displays, not included in the listing directly above	2025

<i>Mercury-added products</i>	<i>Date after which the manufacture, import or export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out date)</i>
Cosmetics (with mercury content above 1ppm), including skin lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available <sup>1/</sup>	2020
Cosmetics, including skin-lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available <sup>1/</sup>	2025
Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics	2020
The following non-electronic measuring devices except non-electronic measuring devices installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available: (a) Barometers; (b) Hygrometers; (c) Manometers; (d) Thermometers; (e) Sphygmomanometers.	2020
Strain gauges to be used in plethysmographs;	2025
The following electrical and electronic measuring devices, except those installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available: (a) Melt pressure transducers, melt pressure transmitters and melt pressure sensors	2025
Mercury vacuum pumps	2025
Tyre balancers and wheel weights	2025
Photographic film and paper	2025
Propellant for satellites and spacecraft	2025

<sup>1/</sup> The intention is not to cover cosmetics, soaps or creams with trace contaminants of mercury.

2. *Decides* to amend part II of annex A to the Convention as set out in the following table;<sup>2</sup>

<i>Mercury-added products</i>	<i>Provisions</i>
Dental amalgam	Measures to be taken by a Party to phase down the use of dental amalgam shall take into account the Party's domestic circumstances and relevant international guidance and shall include two or more of the measures from the following list: (i) Setting national objectives aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, thereby minimizing the need for dental restoration; (ii) Setting national objectives aiming at minimizing its use; (iii) Promoting the use of cost-effective and clinically effective mercury-free alternatives for dental restoration; (iv) Promoting research and development of quality mercury-free materials for dental restoration; (v) Encouraging representative professional organizations and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals and students on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives and on promoting best management practices; (vi) Discouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour dental amalgam use over mercury-free dental restoration; (vii) Encouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour the use of quality alternatives to dental amalgam for dental restoration; (viii) Restricting the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form;

<sup>2</sup> The added provision is shaded in grey.

<i>Mercury-added products</i>	<i>Provisions</i>
	<p>(ix) Promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and land.</p> <p>In addition, Parties shall:</p> <p>(i) Exclude or not allow, by taking measures as appropriate, the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners;</p> <p>(ii) Exclude or not allow, by taking measures as appropriate, or recommend against the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of patients under 15 years and of pregnant and breastfeeding women, except when considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient.</p>
	<p>In addition, Parties that have not yet phased out dental amalgam shall:</p> <p>(i) Submit to the secretariat a national action plan or a report based on available information with respect to progress they have made or are making to phase down or phase out dental amalgam every four years as part of national reporting.</p>

3. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex B as set out in the following table:<sup>3</sup>

<i>Manufacturing processes using mercury or mercury compounds</i>	<i>Phase-out date</i>
Chlor-alkali production	2025
Acetaldehyde production in which mercury or mercury compounds are used as a catalyst	2018
Production of polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts	2025

4. *Notes* that each product entry in paragraphs 1 and 2 above and each process entry in paragraph 3 above is a separate amendment for the purposes of entry into force under article 27 of the Convention;

5. *Establishes* that mercury-free processes for sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate production have become technically and economically feasible;

6. *Decides* to consider at its sixth meeting the proposal to amend part I of annex A by adding the following entry:

<i>Mercury-added products</i>	<i>Date after which the manufacture, import or export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out date)</i>
[Dental amalgam]	[2030]

7. *Decides* to consider at its sixth meeting the proposal to amend part II of annex A by adding the following provision:

<i>Mercury-added products</i>	<i>Provisions</i>
Dental amalgam	<p>In addition, Parties shall:</p> <p>(iv) [[Exclude or not allow] [phase down], by taking measures as appropriate, the use of dental amalgam in government insurance policies and programmes.]</p> <p><i>(Alternative to (iv))</i> [Take measures, as appropriate, to exclude, not allow, [or phase down] dental amalgam in government policies or programmes.]</p>

<sup>3</sup> The added entry is shaded in grey.

## **MC-5/5: Preparation of a report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A to the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Invites* 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 Minamata Convention on Mercury, as well as on current or proposed measures for addressing these challenges taken by parties and others, including the Global Mercury Partnership;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a draft report, compiling and synthesizing the information described in paragraph 1 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; and raising awareness of the hazards of skin-lightening product use among physicians, dermatologists and beauty centre staff, as well as consumers and family members;
3. *Also requests* the secretariat to make the draft report mentioned in paragraph 2 above available to parties and relevant stakeholders by 31 March 2025 so that they can review it and comment on it;
4. *Further requests* the secretariat to prepare a final report, taking into account the comments submitted by parties and relevant stakeholders in accordance with paragraph 3 above, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

## **MC-5/6: Information on the economic and technical feasibility of mercury-free catalysts in vinyl chloride monomer production**

### *The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* the obligation, set out in paragraph 3 of article 5 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, for each party to take measures to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in part II of annex B, which, in the case of vinyl chloride monomer production, includes reporting to the Conference of the Parties on a party's efforts to develop and/or identify alternatives and phase out mercury use in accordance with article 21,

*Recalling also* the obligation, set out in subparagraph 5 (c) of article 5 of the Convention, for each relevant party to endeavour to identify facilities within its territory that use mercury or mercury compounds for processes listed in annex B, which include vinyl chloride monomer production, and submit to the secretariat information on the number and types of such facilities and the estimated annual amount of mercury compounds used in those facilities,

*Recalling further* that information provided by parties regarding processes that use mercury or mercury compounds and their alternatives, as well as other relevant information, shall be made publicly available by the secretariat in accordance with paragraph 4 of article 5 of the Convention,

*Recalling* that, under paragraph 8 of article 5 of the Convention, parties are encouraged to exchange information on economically and technically feasible mercury-free alternatives in relation to the manufacturing processes listed in annex B; that under subparagraph 1 (c) (ii) of article 17 of the Convention, each party shall facilitate the exchange of information on technically and economically viable alternatives to manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used; and that under paragraph 3 of article 17, the secretariat shall facilitate cooperation in the exchange of such information, as well as with relevant organizations, including the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and other international initiatives, and that such information shall also include information from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with expertise in the area of mercury, and from national and international institutions with such expertise,

1. *Invites* parties and relevant organizations to submit, by 31 March 2025, on a voluntary basis, information to the secretariat on technically and economically feasible alternatives to the use of mercury and mercury compounds in vinyl chloride monomer production, in accordance with paragraph 8 of article 5 and paragraph 1 of article 17 of the Convention;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on the technical and economic

feasibility of mercury-free catalysts used to produce vinyl chloride monomer, including information on experiences in transitioning to mercury-free catalysts, drawing on:

- (a) Reporting and information submitted by parties under article 5 of the Convention;
- (b) Information provided under article 17 of the Convention by parties and by relevant organizations, including the vinyl chloride monomer industry, mercury-free catalyst suppliers for vinyl chloride monomer production, and other relevant stakeholders.

### **MC-5/7: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the critical importance of full implementation of article 7 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, on artisanal and small-scale gold mining, to achieving the objective of the Convention and to contributing to the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

*Recalling* decision MC-4/4, which calls on parties to engage Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of national action plans,

*Recognizing* that national action plans on artisanal and small-scale gold mining are central to the achievement of obligations under article 7, and also recognizing the efforts by many parties to develop and submit such plans,

1. *Calls on* all parties that have notified the secretariat pursuant to paragraph 3 of article 7, and in particular those parties that have received support from the Global Environment Facility to develop their national action plans but have not yet submitted their plans, to submit the final plans to the secretariat as soon as possible, taking into consideration the deadline set out in paragraph 3 (b) of article 7;

2. *Calls on* all parties that have submitted their national action plans to provide a review of the progress made in meeting obligations under article 7 and include the review in their reports to be submitted pursuant to article 21, as set out in paragraph 3 (c) of article 7;

3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to include support to parties undertaking their first such reviews as part of the Facility's enabling activity support available to parties, and, within that activity, to support the development and piloting of review guidance, supplementing the information in the guidance document on developing a national action plan to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining,<sup>1</sup> and of an online tool for parties to use when undertaking their reviews;

4. *Calls on* parties and the Global Environment Facility to make further efforts to seek opportunities to advance implementation of article 7 in the context of projects relating to biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, and trade, and to continue to advance implementation of national action plans through projects and programmes;

5. *Welcomes* the technical document on mercury monitoring in and around artisanal and small-scale gold mining sites<sup>2</sup> and requests the secretariat to ensure that the document is readily available to all parties;

6. *Encourages* parties and other relevant stakeholders to:

(a) Engage with Indigenous Peoples and local communities in decision-making processes regarding artisanal and small-scale gold mining;

(b) Protect and strengthen traditional livelihoods and cultural practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and, where appropriate, develop and promote alternative, sustainable economic activities;

(c) Improve multilateral cooperative efforts to enforce national laws pertaining to the international trade of mercury;

<sup>1</sup> "Guidance Document: Developing a National Action Plan to Reduce and, Where Feasible, Eliminate Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining" as adopted in decision MC-4/4 and updated in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/29.

<sup>2</sup> As contained in document UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/9.



(d) Promote appropriate health-care services for prevention, treatment and care for Indigenous Peoples and local communities affected by exposure to mercury from artisanal and small-scale gold mining;

7. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to prepare a supplemental section of the guidance document on developing a national action plan to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of national action plans;

8. *Encourages* parties to work with their respective Indigenous Peoples and local communities with regard to their needs and priorities in relation to the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and requests the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to support parties' efforts to raise awareness among Indigenous Peoples and local communities of the risks associated with mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to provide an update to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on the progress made with respect to notifications, submissions and reviews pursuant to article 7, and to provide the supplemental guidance sections referred to in paragraphs 3 and 7 above for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

### **MC-5/8: Implementation of article 8: emissions of mercury**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Welcoming* the measures taken by parties to control emissions of mercury to the atmosphere in advance of the deadlines provided for in article 8 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

*Recalling* that in decision MC-1/4 it requested parties with experience in using the guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 8 of article 8 of the Convention to provide the secretariat with information on that experience, and requested the secretariat to compile such information and to update the guidance as necessary,

1. *Encourages* parties to advance their efforts to implement article 8 of the Convention, taking note of the deadlines for controlling emissions of mercury from new and existing sources and establishing inventories of emissions as provided for in that article;

2. *Calls on* parties that have chosen to prepare a national plan pursuant to paragraph 3 of article 8 but have not yet submitted the plan to submit it to the Conference of the Parties through the secretariat as soon as possible, noting that the plan is to be submitted no later than four years after the entry into force of the Convention for the party;

3. *Encourages* parties with experience in using the guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to paragraphs 8 and 9 of article 8 to provide the secretariat with information on such experience;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to provide an update to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on the submitted national plans, as well as on the experience of the parties in using relevant guidance.

### **MC-5/9: Guidance on the best available techniques and best environmental practices to control releases from relevant sources**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* subparagraph 7 (a) of article 9 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, according to which the Conference of the Parties shall, as soon as practicable, adopt guidance on best available techniques and on best environmental practices to control releases from relevant sources, taking into account any difference between new and existing sources and the need to minimize cross-media effects,

*Recalling also* the guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases adopted, pursuant to subparagraph 7 (b) of article 9 of the Convention,<sup>1</sup> by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, in decision MC-4/5 on mercury releases,

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.4/30.

*Expressing appreciation* for the work of the group of technical experts, established pursuant to decision MC-2/3 on releases and given an updated mandate in decision MC-3/4 on releases of mercury, on the development of guidance in relation to mercury releases,

1. *Adopts*, pursuant to subparagraph 7 (a) of article 9 of the Convention, the guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices to control releases of mercury from relevant sources;<sup>2</sup>
2. *Invites* parties with relevant sources of mercury releases to take account of the guidance when taking measures to control releases of mercury and preparing a national plan thereon, if any, pursuant to paragraph 4 of article 9;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to support parties, especially developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition, in the application of the guidance.

## **MC-5/10: Establishment of mercury waste thresholds**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Welcoming with appreciation* the outcome of the work and having considered the report<sup>1</sup> of the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds,

*Taking note* of decision BC-15/9 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal at its fifteenth meeting, in which the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds,

*Expressing concern* regarding illegal traffic of mercury waste, and recognizing the critical role of the Basel Convention in addressing such waste movements,

*Acknowledging* the disproportionate negative impacts on developing countries when the transboundary movement of mercury waste is not conducted in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such movement,

*Recalling* the requirement in subparagraph 3 (a) of article 11 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to take appropriate measures so that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner, taking into account the guidance developed under the Basel Convention and in accordance with the requirements that the Conference of the Parties shall adopt in an additional annex,

1. *Decides* to establish 15 mg/kg total concentration of mercury as the threshold for wastes falling under subparagraph 2 (c) of article 11 of the Minamata Convention, subject to the provision in paragraph 2 below;
2. *Also decides* that a party may, as an alternative to the provision in paragraph 1 above, use a different approach to determine whether a given waste is a mercury waste falling under subparagraph 2 (c) of article 11 of the Convention, provided that that party has documented waste management measures in place to protect human health and the environment, including measures to ensure that mercury waste is managed pursuant to paragraph 3 of article 11, and also including measures to identify mercury waste using approaches such as those based on national definitions of mercury wastes or hazardous wastes, listing approach, hazardous characteristics or risk considerations, leachate thresholds or total concentration thresholds;
3. *Further decides* that a party making use of the alternative approach described in paragraph 2 above is to submit to the secretariat its documented waste management measures as described in paragraph 2;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to maintain a public register of the information submitted in accordance with paragraph 3 above;
5. *Invites* parties and relevant stakeholders to submit to the secretariat any scientific and regulatory data and information on the effectiveness of the threshold established in paragraph 1 above in protecting human health and the environment, as well as on challenges and experiences related to its use, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/8, annex I

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/9, annex I.

6. *Invites* parties to use the guidance document on the test methods for the tier-2 threshold for tailings from mining other than primary mercury mining as set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/13;
7. *Invites* parties in a position to do so to provide support to developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition in the identification, analysis and other elements of the environmentally sound management of mercury waste;
8. *Decides* to consider, at its seventh meeting, whether any updates are necessary to the lists in tables 1, 2 and 3 of the annex to decision MC-3/5, recognizing the request in paragraph 9 of that decision;
9. *Invites* parties to submit to the secretariat by 31 October 2024 information regarding their waste management regulations and programmes as mentioned in subparagraph 3 (a) of article 11, with a focus on matters not addressed by the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds;<sup>2</sup>
10. *Requests* the secretariat to collect and organize the information referred to in paragraph 9 above and distribute it to the parties by 1 January 2025;
11. *Invites* parties to review the information referred to in paragraph 9 above in their preparations for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
12. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider illegal traffic of mercury waste, as appropriate, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to ensure the protection of human health and the environment;
13. *Requests* the secretariat to transmit the present decision to the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention and to invite them to take the present decision into account as appropriate.

### **MC-5/11: Review of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Reaffirming* the importance of the full application of the provisions of article 13 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury for the full implementation of the Convention, and welcoming the valuable roles of the Global Environment Facility trust fund and the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance as the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Convention,

*Welcoming* the historic eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund and the resources generously contributed and pledged by donors to the Global Environment Facility trust fund and the Specific Trust Fund,

*Considering* the many well-articulated applications submitted by parties for funding by the financial mechanism,

*Considering also* paragraph 11 of article 13, on the review of the financial mechanism,

*Recalling* the terms of reference for the second review of the financial mechanism, as set out in the annex to decision MC-4/7,

*Recalling also* the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme entitled “Strengthening the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance of the Minamata Convention on Mercury: enhancing the effective functioning of the Programme”,<sup>1</sup> presented to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting and mentioned in the terms of reference for the second review of the financial mechanism as a source of information for the review,

*Noting* the work of the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme to undertake a midterm evaluation of the Specific International Programme,

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.6/Rev.1.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.4/13.

1. *Welcomes* the report on the second review of the financial mechanism,<sup>2</sup> on the basis of which the Conference of the Parties has undertaken the review in accordance with paragraph 11 of article 13;
2. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to take into consideration, in the implementation of the programming directions for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund, and in the discussions on the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund, the recommendations set out in the report on the second review of the financial mechanism;
3. *Notes* the importance of relevant parties working through their operational focal points to make prompt and full use of the programming directions and resource allocation for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund, including with respect to undertaking mercury reduction activities in the integrated programmes and within, in particular, the biodiversity and climate change focal areas, and requests the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to facilitate the exchange of information to enable that use;
4. *Provides* additional details to supplement the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the Global Environment Facility, as follows:
  - (a) The Global Environment Facility, in planning for its ninth replenishment period, should promote synergies with other focal areas in line with decision MC-1/5, including the biodiversity focal area, as it advances work under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
  - (b) In developing its programming directions and resource allocations for the ninth replenishment period, and in further developing projects and programmes under the programming directions for the eighth replenishment, the Global Environment Facility should take into account the time frames that parties must meet for implementation of mandatory obligations;
5. *Requests* the secretariat of the Minamata Convention to keep the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme informed of relevant Convention obligations and deadlines and the extent to which such obligations and deadlines are being met by parties, based on national reporting;
6. *Requests* the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme to take into consideration the findings and recommendations of the second review of the financial mechanism, including with respect to indicators for use in monitoring and reporting, in its ongoing deliberations;
7. *Resolves* to increase efforts to augment the funding available in the Specific Trust Fund to support parties in undertaking critical implementation efforts in the second half of the initial period of the Specific International Programme;
8. *Encourages* parties to increase efforts to analyse, communicate and respond to needs for implementation support, and requests the secretariat to prepare an analysis of expected funding needs and related staffing needs through the second half of the initial term of the Specific International Programme, taking into consideration the midterm evaluation of the Specific International Programme and the second review of the financial mechanism;
9. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare draft terms of reference for the third review of the financial mechanism for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting;
10. *Requests* the secretariat to communicate to the Global Environment Facility Council the result of the second review of the financial mechanism and to forward the report on the second review of the financial mechanism and the present decision to the Global Environment Facility secretariat and Council.

### **MC-5/12: Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Considering* article 14 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, on capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer,

1. *Requests* the secretariat, pursuant to paragraph 4 of article 14 and subject to the availability of resources, to undertake, using information in national reporting, reporting under projects of the Global Environment Facility and existing information provided by stakeholders, including the

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<sup>2</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/17.

Global Mercury Partnership, the regional centres of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, Indigenous Peoples' organizations and relevant international organizations, a desk study, and to develop case studies on:

(a) Existing initiatives and progress made in relation to alternative technologies, including private-sector engagement;

(b) The needs of parties, particularly developing-country parties, for alternative technologies;

(c) Any challenges experienced by parties;

2. *Also requests* the secretariat to make the desk study and case studies described in paragraph 1 above available to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its sixth meeting, pursuant to paragraph 4 of article 14;

3. *Further requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to develop and disseminate tools and training materials related to the implementation of parties' obligations under the Minamata Convention, including materials that respond to emerging and key implementation challenges at the national, subregional and regional levels and, in particular, to recommendations of the Implementation and Compliance Committee regarding implementation of articles 4, 7 and 11 of the Convention, and to undertake cross-cutting capacity-building activities, including training on gender and trade;

4. *Calls on* parties in a position to do so to contribute to the special trust fund to enable the studies and capacity-building activities described in paragraphs 1 to 3 above and in the programme of work and budget activity fact sheet for capacity-building and technical assistance (activity 4) to be carried out;

5. *Calls on* parties, in the light of paragraph 1 of article 14 and within the scope of their respective capabilities, to continue efforts to collaborate to support developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition on all issues relating to the implementation of the Convention through the provision of capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms;

6. *Encourages* multilateral, regional and bilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, to support developing-country parties in their implementation of the Convention, pursuant to paragraph 3 of article 13, on financial resources and mechanisms;

7. *Calls on* parties to continue cooperating to provide support in capacity-building, financial and technical assistance and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms, for the development of and improved access to sustainable mercury-free alternative technologies for artisanal and small-scale gold mining, recognizing the measures taken by parties to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate the use of mercury and mercury compounds in artisanal and small-scale gold mining;

8. *Invites* parties to participate in targeted capacity-building, and financial and technical assistance activities relating to mercury waste, including those offered by the secretariat;

9. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue and enhance cooperation with the Global Mercury Partnership, and to engage with the Partnership in the consideration of options for strengthening the capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer programme of the secretariat and for enhancing support to parties as they cooperate to provide capacity-building and technical assistance pursuant to paragraph 1 of article 14.

### **MC-5/13: National reporting pursuant to article 21 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Welcoming* the high rate of submission of the first full national reports (95 per cent) and parties' implementation and compliance efforts since the entry into force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

*Considering* the recommendations of the Implementation and Compliance Committee to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting,

*Appreciating* the efforts made by the secretariat to support parties in fulfilling their obligation to report, including by holding information sessions and developing the online reporting tool and the draft reporting guidance,

*Emphasizing* the importance of reporting, and recalling parties' obligation to submit their national reports in accordance with article 21 of the Convention,

*Recognizing* the importance of clarity in the information transmitted in national reports,

1. *Encourages* parties to achieve a high rate of reporting for the second short reports, due by 31 December 2023;

2. *Takes note* of the report on the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as contained in document UNEP/MC/COP.5/14;

3. *Calls on* parties that have not submitted their national reports for the first full national reporting cycle to do so by 31 December 2023;

4. *Calls on* parties that have not provided complete information on the number of facilities and on the estimated amount of mercury used in processes listed in part II of annex B to the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

5. *Encourages* parties that are developing Minamata Initial Assessments to complete them as soon as possible so they may be of support to implementation measures and national reporting efforts;

6. *Adopts* the amendments to the reporting format as set out in annex I to the present decision, and requests the secretariat to reflect the amendments in the reporting format and in the online reporting tool;

7. *Adopts* the reporting guidance as set out in annex II to the present decision, for use by parties, and requests the secretariat to reflect the amendments to the reporting format, as adopted, in the reporting guidance;

8. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

## Annex I to decision MC-5/13

### Amendments to the reporting format

#### 1. Amended question 3.1

**Question 3.1:** Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party? (para. 3)

- Yes – primary mercury mining with available data  
 Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data  
 No

If the party answered **yes** to either option above, please indicate:

- a) The anticipated date of closure of the mine(s): (*month, year*) OR  
 b) The date on which the mine(s) closed: (*month, year*)  
 c)\*Total amount of mercury mined \_\_\_\_\_ metric tons per year.

#### 2. Amended question 3.2

**Question 3.2:** Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party? (para. 3, para. 11)

- Yes – primary mercury mining with available data  
 Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data  
 No

If the party answered **yes** to either option above, please explain.

## 3. Amended question 3.3

**Question 3.3:** (A) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory? (para. 5)

- Yes – with new data\* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
- Yes – endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
- No

a) \*If the party answered **yes – with new data** to the question:

- i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the internet;
- ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information – for example, on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks.

b) If the party answered **no** to the question, please explain.

(B) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual sources of mercury-supply-generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory? (para. 5)

- Yes – with new data\* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
- Yes – endeavoured and indicates same sources as reported in the previous report
- No

a) \*If the party answered **yes – with new data** to the question above:

- i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the internet;
- ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information – for example, on the use or disposal of mercury from such sources.

b) If the party answered **no** to the question above, please explain.

## 4. Amended question 3.4

**Question 3.4:** Has the party determined that it has excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities? (para. 5 (b))

- Yes
- No – has determined it has no excess mercury
- No – has not made a determination

If **yes**, please explain the measures taken to ensure that the excess mercury was disposed of in accordance with the guidelines for environmentally sound management referred to in paragraph 3 (a) of article 11 using operations that did not lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct re-use or alternative uses (para. 5 (b), para. 11).

## 5. Amended question 3.5

**Question 3.5:** \*Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non-parties, for all exports of mercury from the party's territory in the reporting period? (para. 6, para. 7)

- Yes – exports to parties
- Yes – exports to non-parties
- No – no export took place
- No – consent was not given

If the party answered **yes**,

(a) and the party has submitted copies of the consent forms to the secretariat, then no further information is needed.

If the party has not previously provided such copies, it is recommended that it do so.

Otherwise, please provide other suitable information showing that the relevant requirements of paragraph 6 of article 3 have been met.

Supplemental: Please provide information on the use of the exported mercury.

(b) If exports were based on a general notification in accordance with article 3, paragraph 7, please indicate, if available, the total amount exported and any relevant terms or conditions in the general notification related to use.

If the party answered **no – consent was not given**, please provide information on the trade which was not in compliance with the Convention, the challenges met by the party and/or its needs in meeting the requirements of paragraphs 6 and 7 of article 3.

#### 6. Amended question 4.1

**Question 4.1:** Has the party taken any appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in part I of annex A to the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products? (para. 1)

*If the party is implementing paragraph 2, please skip to question 4.2.*

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures.

If either **yes or no**, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, for which products (please list)? (para. 1, para. 2 (d))

#### 7. Amended question 4.3

**Question 4.3:** (A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein? (para. 3)

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures.

(B) If the amendment to annex A adopted in decision MC-4/3 has entered into force for the party, has the party (please check the appropriate box below) taken relevant measures:

- Yes – excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners
- Yes – excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, or recommended against, the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth of patients under 15 years of age and of pregnant and breastfeeding women, except when such use is considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient
- No
- Not applicable

If the party answered **yes** to either option above, please provide information on the measures.

If the party answered **no** to question (a) or (b) above, please explain.

#### 8. Amended question 4.4

**Question 4.4:** Has the party taken measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed for it under article 4? (para. 5)

- Yes
- No
- No - not applicable (*do not have facilities assembling products using mercury-added products*)

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures.



## 9. Amended question 4.5

**Question 4.5:** Has the party discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of mercury-added products not covered by any known use in accordance with article 4, paragraph 6? (para. 6)

- Yes
- No – no action taken
- No – an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product demonstrates benefits to human health or the environment

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures taken.

If the party answered **no – no action taken**, please explain.

If the party answered **no – an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product demonstrates benefits to human health or the environment**, has the party provided to the secretariat, as appropriate, information on any such products?

- Yes
- No

If **no**, please name the product and add relevant information here \_\_\_\_\_.

## 10. Amended question 5.3

**Question 5.3:** Are measures in place to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in part II of annex B in accordance with the provisions set out therein? (para. 3)

Vinyl chloride monomer production:

- Yes
- No

Not applicable (*do not have these facilities*)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

If **no**, please explain, including any challenges encountered.

Sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate:

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable (*do not have these facilities*)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

If **no**, please explain, including any challenges encountered.

Production of polyurethane using mercury containing catalysts:

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable (*do not have these facilities*)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

If **no**, please explain, including any challenges encountered.

## 11. Amended question 5.5

**Question 5.5:** Has the party discouraged the development of any facility using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention? (para. 7)

- Yes
- No – no action taken
- No – the party demonstrated to the Conference of the Parties the significant environmental and health benefits of the manufacturing process and that there are no technically and economically feasible mercury-free alternatives available providing such benefits.

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures taken.

## 12. Amended question 7.2

**Question 7.2:** Has the party determined, and notified the secretariat, that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant?

- Yes
- No

If **no**, please proceed to question 7.5.

## 13. Amended question 10.1

**Question 10.1:** Has the party taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner? (para. 2)

- Yes
- No (*please explain*)
- Do not know (*please explain*)

If **yes**, please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner, and the effectiveness of those measures.

## 14. Amended question 11.1

**Question 11.1:** Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party's mercury waste? (para. 3)

- Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner
- Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is recovered, recycled, reclaimed or directly re-used for a use allowed to a party under the Convention or for environmentally sound disposal pursuant to paragraph 3 (a)
- Yes – the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is not transported across international boundaries except for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal
- No

If the party answered **yes** to any measures above, please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.

If **no**, please explain.

## 15. Amended question 11.2

**Question 11.2:** \*Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory?

- Yes - there are facilities in the party's territory
- Yes - there are facilities outside the party's territory accessible to the party (in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 11)
- No
- Do not know (*please explain*)

If there are facilities in the party's territory and if the information is available, how much waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds has been subject to final disposal under the reporting period? Please specify the method of the final disposal operation/operations. If the party does not have specific data on waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds, the party may report on the data including other mercury waste, with an explanatory note.

## 16. Amended question 16.2

**Question 16.2:** Have any measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16 beyond the provision of information to the public on exposure to mercury (referred to in question 16.1)? (para. 1)

- Yes
- No

Supplemental: If **yes**, describe the measures that have been taken.

## 17. Amended question 17.1

**Question 17.1:** Has the party facilitated the exchange of information referred to in article 17, paragraph 1? (para. 1)

- Yes
- No

If **yes**, the Party may wish to indicate in the space provided below the exchange of information it has facilitated, such as:

- Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information
- Information on the reduction or elimination of the production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds
- Information on technically and economically viable alternatives to:
  - Mercury-added products
  - Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used
  - Activities and processes that emit or release mercury or mercury compounds

including information on risks to human health and the environment, accessibility and availability of those alternatives to parties and economic and social costs and benefits of such alternatives

- Epidemiological information concerning health impacts associated with exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, in close cooperation with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, as appropriate.

(Art. 17.1 (a)–(d))

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## 18. Amended question 18.1

**Question 18.1:** Have measures been taken to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in article 18, paragraph 1? (para. 1)

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the measures it has taken to promote and facilitate information to the public, such as:

- (a) Provision to the public of available information on:
- The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment
  - Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds
  - The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17
  - The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19
  - Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention
- (b) Education, training and public awareness related to the effects of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and vulnerable populations, as appropriate.

(Art. 18 (1) (a) and (b))

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## 19. Amended question 19.1

**Question 19.1:** Has the party undertaken any research, development and monitoring in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19? (para. 1)

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the research, development and monitoring it has undertaken, such as:

- Inventories of use, consumption, anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds
- Modelling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations and in environmental media, including biotic media such as fish, marine mammals, sea turtles and birds, as well as collaboration in the collection and exchange of relevant and appropriate samples
- Assessments of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, in addition to social, economic and cultural impacts, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations
- Harmonized methodologies for the activities undertaken under subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 of article 19
- Information on the environmental cycle, transport (including long-range transport and deposition), transformation and fate of mercury and mercury compounds in a range of ecosystems, taking appropriate account of the distinction between anthropogenic and natural emissions and releases of mercury and of remobilization of mercury from historic deposition
- Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products
- Information and research on the technical and economic availability of mercury-free products and processes and on best available techniques and best environmental practices to reduce and monitor emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

(Art. 19 (1) (a)–(g))

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## Annex II to decision MC-5/13

# Guidance for completing the national reporting format for the Minamata Convention on Mercury

## I. Article 21 reporting obligations under the Minamata Convention

The Minamata Convention on Mercury, in article 21 on reporting, provides that each party shall report to the Conference of the Parties, through the secretariat, on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Convention, and on the effectiveness of such measures and the possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention.

In decision MC-1/8, on timing and format of reporting by the parties, the Conference of the Parties adopted the reporting format set out in the annex to that decision, entitled “Reporting format for the Minamata Convention on Mercury: reporting on measures to be taken to implement the provisions of the Convention, the effectiveness of such measures and the challenges encountered”. The instructions in the reporting format indicated that the national reports must be submitted to the Conference of the Parties through the Convention secretariat in any of the six official languages of the United Nations.

The Conference of the Parties also decided that each party shall report every four years using the full format, and every two years with respect to the questions in the format marked by an asterisk.

The Conference of the Parties further decided that each party shall submit the first short reports (i.e., the responses to questions in the format marked by an asterisk) by 31 December 2019 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its subsequent meeting.

It therefore follows that for the first short reports the reporting period covers 16 August 2017 (the date of entry into force of the Convention) to 31 December 2018 (to be submitted by 31 December 2019), and for the first full reports the reporting period covers 16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020 (to be submitted by 31 December 2021). The cycle will then be repeated, with the subsequent short reports covering 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022 (due by 31 December 2023) and the subsequent full reports covering 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024 (due by 31 December 2025), and so on.

The Conference of the Parties draws on the reports in its reviews and evaluations of the implementation of the Convention pursuant to paragraph 5 of article 23 of the Convention, and in its evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention pursuant to paragraph 3 (b) of article 22. Further, the Implementation and Compliance Committee may consider issues pursuant to paragraph 4 (b) of article 15 on the basis of the reports. The Committee is tasked, in paragraph 2 of article 15, to examine both individual and systemic issues of implementation and compliance and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties.

It is important that the information reported by the party be officially endorsed and submitted formally. The national focal point of each party plays an important role in the reporting process in that regard. The national focal point is designated by each party according to paragraph 4 of article 17 on information exchange. The party’s report is to be submitted by or through the designated national focal point. All information on the national focal points designated by parties to the Convention is available on the Convention website,<sup>1</sup> including information on how to complete the formalities of such a designation.

Parties are encouraged to use the secretariat’s **online reporting tool**<sup>2</sup> to submit their reports. The national focal points of parties are provided with password-secured access to this tool. Parties are able to access the tool and submit their reports in any of the six official languages of the United Nations. While all parties are encouraged to use the online reporting tool, in cases where this may not be possible a party may submit its report through an **offline paper version**.<sup>3</sup> Kindly contact the

<sup>1</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/FocalPoints/tabid/7708/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/FocalPoints/tabid/7708/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

<sup>2</sup> The pilot online reporting tool has been further developed by the secretariat into a fully fledged online reporting tool, which is now active for each reporting cycle. In the online reporting tool, parties will be able to find the submissions from previous reporting cycles; pre-populated part A.1 information, including dates of instrument deposit and entry into force; and national focal point information based on the official designation of national focal points pursuant to article 17.4 of the Convention. The pre-populated information will be updated for each reporting cycle.

<sup>3</sup> While all parties are strongly encouraged to use the online reporting tool, the secretariat has prepared an offline paper version of both the short and the full reporting formats for cases where it may not be possible for a party to

secretariat for more detailed information on submitting reports through the online reporting tool and/or by electronic paper version at [MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org](mailto:MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org).

The reports submitted by parties for the respective reporting periods will be checked by the secretariat for completeness and thereafter made available on the Convention website.<sup>4</sup> Should the secretariat consider the reports submitted by parties to be incomplete, the secretariat shall indicate the relevant part to the party and include suggestions for follow-up by the party. Whether the party follows up in response to the suggested comments remains at the discretion of the party.

## II. Overview of the guidance for completing the national reporting format

The purpose of the guidance is to clarify the information being sought in the national reporting format, and in this way to assist parties in their obligation to report on the measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention. The guidance has been prepared in response to the requests of the Conference of the Parties in decisions MC-3/13 and MC-4/8.

The guidance follows the structure of the reporting format as adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting.<sup>5</sup> The reporting format consists of the following five sections:

- **Part A:** General information on the party for which the report is being submitted;
- **Part B:** Information on measures taken by the reporting party to implement the relevant provisions and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention;
- **Part C:** Opportunity to comment on possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention;
- **Part D:** Opportunity to comment on the reporting format and possible improvements;
- **Part E:** Opportunity to provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text if the party chooses to do so.

To be clear, this guidance is not intended as a manual on how to implement the articles and obligations of the Convention to which the questions refer, but solely as guidance to parties for the collection and collating of the information needed to complete parts A–E.

In particular, the guidance seeks to provide greater clarity on the information sought in the 43 questions under part B that relate to the measures taken by the reporting party to implement the relevant provisions of the Convention and the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention. The questions relate to the following articles of the Convention:

- Article 3 (Mercury supply sources and trade)
- Article 4 (Mercury-added products)
- Article 5 (Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used)
- Article 7 (Artisanal and small-scale gold mining)
- Article 8 (Emissions)
- Article 9 (Releases)
- Article 10 (Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury)
- Article 11 (Mercury wastes)
- Article 12 (Contaminated sites)
- Article 13 (Financial resources and mechanism)
- Article 14 (Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer)

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report online. This offline paper version may also be useful to parties in the preparation stage of collecting and collating information to enter thereafter using the online reporting tool.

<sup>4</sup> National Reporting pursuant to Article 21, Minamata Convention on Mercury, available at <https://minamataconvention.org/en/parties/reporting>.

<sup>5</sup> In decision MC-4/8, the Conference of the Parties made clarifications to some questions in the reporting format; these have been included in this version of the reporting guidance.

- Article 16 (Health aspects)
- Article 17 (Information exchange)
- Article 18 (Public information, awareness and education)
- Article 19 (Research, development and monitoring).

The guidance is set out part by part, and for part B is structured question by question. In part B, each question is presented as adopted in the reporting format<sup>6</sup> and, with a few exceptions, is followed by **notes to provide background information and/or clarification** and a **suggested approach for responding to the question**.

For the **short reports**, in addition to part A, part C, part D and part E, parties are to respond to the following questions (marked by an asterisk in the format) in part B for the two years of the reporting period:

- Question 3.1 (c)
- Question 3.3 (a)
- Question 3.5
- Question 11.2.

For the **full reports**, in addition to part A, part C, part D and part E, parties are to respond to all 43 questions in part B for the four years of the reporting period.

It should be noted that many of the **43 questions in part B** are multi-tiered. Parties are to respond on their measures using the “yes” and “no” answer boxes and, in some instances, additional answer boxes such as “other” or “don’t know”. For questions where further details (or details in addition to the answer boxes) are requested, parties are requested to fill in the details as narrated text in the comment boxes, upload attachments or provide links to specific other documents or specific information sources. To enhance information clarity, if detail that is to be reported by a party is part of larger documents, studies or reports held by the party,<sup>7</sup> the party is requested to extract the exact information required for reporting purposes and submit that information rather than submitting the entire document, study or report.

The secretariat draws parties’ attention to items noted in the instructions for part B in the adopted reporting format:

- Mandatory information forms the core of the adopted reporting format.
- A limited number of questions are labelled as “supplemental”. Additional information would facilitate the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention, and additional questions have been added to the format to obtain this information. These additional questions are identified as supplemental information, and responses can be provided voluntarily at the party’s discretion, but parties are encouraged to answer items for which they have relevant information.
- The format calls for information on measures taken by the reporting party to implement the relevant provisions of the Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention.
- Descriptions of the effectiveness of the implementing measures should be provided based on a party’s particular situation and capabilities but should nonetheless be as consistent as possible in the party’s report.
- The effectiveness of implementing measures described by a party is related to its implementation and compliance under article 15, and is separate from the effectiveness of the Convention to be evaluated under article 22.

<sup>6</sup> For ease of reference, the 43 questions in part B have been numbered to refer to the articles to which they relate.

<sup>7</sup> These could include Minamata Initial Assessment reports, national action plans and other such documents.

Note: to complete the national reports:

- ✓ Plan ahead in order to secure the information required for all parts of the reporting format, and particularly for the questions in part B, as well as the attachments and links that may be needed, in good time to ensure that reports are submitted in full by the deadline.
- ✓ Use the offline reporting paper to collect and collate information prior to entering it in the online reporting tool.
- ✓ When reporting annual data, specify the year(s). Where the reporting period is not 1 January to 31 December, specify the period.
- ✓ When answering open questions, ensure that the responses are succinct while at the same time offering a “meaningful story”.
- ✓ Check for consistency between the responses to different questions.
- ✓ Note the units in which information on amounts are to be provided (e.g., metric tons).

### III. Completing the reporting format for the Minamata Convention

*Reporting on measures to be taken to implement the provisions of the Convention, the effectiveness of such measures and the challenges encountered*

#### Part A: General information on the party

Part A captures general information on the party for which the report is being submitted. It is divided into four parts: first, information on party status is given; then, the details of the national focal point are noted; next, as necessary, the information of an additional contact officer is provided; and, last, the date the report was submitted is entered. Much of the information in part A will be pre-filled in the online reporting tool but is to be confirmed and/or updated as required by the reporting party.

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY	
NATIONAL REPORT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 21	
1. INFORMATION ON THE PARTY	
Name of party	
Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited	<i>(day/month/year)</i>
Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party	<i>(day/month/year)</i>

**NOTES:** The date of entry into force of the Convention for a party that deposited its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance prior to the date of deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance (18 May 2017) is the date of entry into force of the Convention (16 August 2017).

For a party that deposited its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance after 18 May 2017, the date of entry into force of the Convention is the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance (article 31). It should be noted that this refers to 90 calendar days.

The date of deposit of the instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance of the Convention for a party can be found on the Convention website.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/tabid/3428/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/tabid/3428/language/en-US/Default.aspx).



2. INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT	
Full name of the institution	
Name and title of contact officer	
Mailing address	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
Email address	
Website	

**NOTES:** Article 17, paragraph 4 requires that each party designate a national focal point for the exchange of information under the Convention. The secretariat maintains the list of all designated national focal points on the Convention website.<sup>9</sup> Parties are requested to check that the information shown on the national focal point list is correct and to alert the secretariat immediately of any updates. The form for designating a national focal point (including a model letter) is available on the Convention website. It is important that the information reported by the party be officially endorsed and submitted formally. The national focal point plays an important role in the reporting process in that regard. The party's report is to be submitted by or through the designated national focal point.

3. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTACT OFFICER SUBMITTING THE REPORTING FORMAT IF DIFFERENT FROM THE ABOVE	
Full name of the institution	
Name and title of contact officer	
Mailing address	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
Email address	
Website	

**NOTES:** Filling in these fields is optional. In cases where the party's report is submitted through (not by) the designated national focal point, the contact officer submitting the information in the reporting format would be identified here. Requests for clarification or follow-up will be referred to both the national focal point and the additional contact officer.

4. DATE THE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED	<i>(day/month/year)</i>
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**NOTES:** In the online reporting tool, once the submitting officer has completed and confirmed the submission, the system will assign the date and time of the report submitted automatically in this field.

If a party submits its report through the electronic paper version, the secretariat notes the date and time on receipt of the report.

In both cases, a copy of the completed report will be made available to the reporting party. Thereafter, reports are made available on the Convention website.

<sup>9</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/FocalPoints/tabid/7708/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/FocalPoints/tabid/7708/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

**Part B: Information on measures taken by the reporting party to implement the relevant provisions and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention**

Part B captures the reporting party's responses on measures taken by the party to implement the relevant provisions and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention. This part consists of 43 questions. For the short report, only four questions are to be answered, namely those marked by asterisks. For the full report, all questions are to be answered. The questions are set out by article and in this guidance have been numbered to refer to the article to which they relate. For part B, it should be noted that in relation to various questions, parties may wish to use the opportunities provided in part C and part E to add comments, explanations, clarifications, concerns or any other information regarded by the party as pertinent to note for the specific article or question.

**Article 3: Mercury supply sources and trade**

**Question 3.1:** Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party? (para. 3)

Yes

No

If **yes**, please indicate:

a) The anticipated date of closure of the mine(s): (*month, year*) OR

b) The date upon which the mine(s) closed: (*month, year*)

c)\*Total amount of mercury mined \_\_\_\_\_ metric tons per year

**NOTES:** "Mercury" is defined in article 2 (d) of the Convention as "elemental mercury (Hg(0), CAS No. 7439-97-6)". Article 2 (i) defines primary mercury mining as "mining in which the principal material sought is mercury". Accordingly, this question does not seek information about mines from which mercury is obtained as a by-product or waste (question 3.3 below addresses mercury from other such sources).

Paragraph 4 of article 3 allows a party with primary mercury mining within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for it to continue to allow those existing mines to operate for up to 15 years after that date. Paragraph 11 of article 3 requires each party to include in its reports submitted pursuant to article 21 information showing that the requirements of this article have been met. Parties are encouraged to report on all primary mercury mining activities being carried out in their territories, irrespective of their status as formal, informal or illegal.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

If the party does not have primary mercury mines that were operating at the date of entry into force of the Convention for it, the party would reply "**no**" and move to the next question.

- If the party has primary mercury mines that were operating at the date of entry into force of the Convention for it, the party would reply "**yes**" and would indicate, for each mine:
  - The anticipated date of closure for the mine(s) OR the date when the mine(s) closed;
  - The total amount mined per year of the reporting period (in metric tons of mercury metal produced by primary mining, rather than the total amount of mercury-containing ore that was excavated). Data should be provided for each year the mine(s) operated since the date of entry into force for the party. Data for partial years can be included if data for full years are unavailable. In that case, or when data are completely unavailable, and for any other information the party regards as pertinent, there is an opportunity to provide an explanation and/or further information in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention* and/or *part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.*

**Question 3.2:** Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party? (para. 3, para. 11)

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please explain.

**NOTES:** Paragraph 3 of article 3 requires each party to not allow primary mercury mining that was not being conducted within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for it. Parties are encouraged to report on all primary mercury mining activities being carried out in their territories, irrespective on their status as formal, informal or illegal.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party does not have primary mercury mines that commenced operation after the date of entry into force of the Convention for it, the party would reply “**no**” and move to the next question.
- If the party has primary mercury mines that commenced operation after the date of entry into force of the Convention for it, the party would reply “**yes**” and would explain, including, if available:
  - The number of such mines;
    - The date(s) the mine(s) commenced operation;
    - The total amount of mercury metal produced by primary mining (in metric tons) for each year since the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party;
    - Proposed actions to meet the obligation in paragraph 3 of article 3;
    - The anticipated closure date(s) for the mine(s).

The party may also wish to provide an explanation and/or further information in part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention and/or part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.

**Question 3.3:** Has the party 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 are located within its territory? (para. 5)

- Yes  
 No

a) \*If the party answered **yes** to question 3.3 above:

i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.

ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information – for example, on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks and sources.

b) If the party answered **no** above, please explain.

**NOTES:** For the purposes of article 3, “mercury” includes mixtures of mercury with other substances, including alloys of mercury, with a mercury concentration of at least 95 per cent by weight. Note that for the purposes of articles 3 and 10, “mercury compounds” are defined more narrowly than the definition in article 2 (e) and refer only to mercury (I) chloride (known also as calomel), mercury (II) oxide, mercury (II) sulphate, mercury (II) nitrate, cinnabar and mercury sulphide (see the following table).

<i>Name</i>	<i>Chemical formula</i>	<i>Other names</i>	<i>CAS Number<sup>a</sup></i>
Mercury (I) chloride	Hg <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	Mercurous chloride, calomel	10112-91-1
Mercury (II) oxide	HgO	Mercuric oxide or simply mercury oxide	21908-53-2
Mercury (II) sulphate	HgSO <sub>4</sub>	Mercury (II) sulfate, mercuric sulfate	7783-35-9

<i>Name</i>	<i>Chemical formula</i>	<i>Other names</i>	<i>CAS Number<sup>a</sup></i>
Mercury (II) nitrate	Hg(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	Mercury dinitrate, mercuric nitrate	10045-94-0, 7783-34-8
Cinnabar Mercury sulphide	HgS	Mercuric sulfide, mercury sulfide, mercury (II) sulfide, vermillion	1344-48-5

<sup>a</sup> Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number.

In decision MC-1/2, on guidance in relation to mercury supply sources and trade, the Conference of the Parties adopted the guidance on the identification of individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year.<sup>10</sup> The guidance clarifies that a “stock”, in this context, could be considered to be a quantity of mercury or mercury compounds brought together or aggregated for future use, but would not include quantities of mercury disposed of and managed as waste, nor mercury at a contaminated site, nor geologic reserves of mercury. Further, an “individual stock” would be identified when the aggregate weight of mercury or mercury compounds exceeded 50 metric tons.

Individual stocks may include existing inventories or stockpiles of governments, traders or operating chlor-alkali facilities. Some further examples of entities that might use or store mercury or mercury compounds are provided in paragraph 9 of the guidance, namely:

- (a) Mercury traders that buy and sell, including through imports and exports, mercury or mercury compounds and may have varying amounts on hand at any given time;
- (b) Primary mercury mines, which may have stocks of mercury awaiting sale and therefore may have large quantities on hand at certain times, depending on demand;
- (c) Other facilities or activities – for instance, recycling – that produce mercury or mercury compounds, including mercury waste treatment facilities, which may also have large stocks on hand, depending on the overall mercury demand or on whether mercury is held pending a final decision on whether it is destined for disposal;
- (d) National Governments, which may have stocks of mercury on hand resulting from the seizure of mercury and from uses such as military storage;
- (e) Production facilities for mercury-added products or facilities that use processes that use mercury or mercury compounds, which may also maintain significant stocks of mercury.

An entity storing mercury in different locations should consider them combined as an individual stock. If an entity has two or more facilities within a country’s territory and the sum total of their mercury stocks exceeds 50 metric tons, this stock is to be included in the report.

Paragraph 16 of the guidance provides guiding questions to assist a party in determining whether it has stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons.

Paragraph 16 also provides guiding questions to assist a party in determining whether it has sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year. Mercury supply sources generating stocks can include mercury catalyst recyclers and waste treatment facilities, mercury mines, mercury compound producers and mercury by-product generation locations, including non-mercury mines that produce mercury as a by-product. It should be noted that “sources” do not include imports of mercury or mercury compounds as such imports are not sources located within the territory of the party.

The obligation for parties set out in paragraph 5 of article 3 and reflected in question 3.3 is “endeavour to identify”. Parties may implement the obligation as they see fit, including, for example, through one or more of the following actions:

- A specific survey or inventory;
- Implementation of national hazardous substances regulations;
- Development of the party’s implementation plan (if one has been developed pursuant to article 20 of the Convention);

<sup>10</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.1/5, annex IV, available at [www.minamataconvention.org/en/documents/guidance-identification-individual-stocks-mercury-or-mercury-compounds-exceeding-50-0](http://www.minamataconvention.org/en/documents/guidance-identification-individual-stocks-mercury-or-mercury-compounds-exceeding-50-0).

- Development of the party's Minamata Initial Assessment (if undertaken).

The information used by the party in responding to this question may be available from one or more of the following:

- Any national reporting arrangement established to provide information on mercury supply and trade;
- Any national trade licensing that includes mercury or mercury compounds;
- Reporting under regulatory measures in areas such as hazardous substances control, environmental protection or mining;
- The party's implementation plan (if one has been developed pursuant to article 20);
- The party's Minamata Initial Assessment (if undertaken).

It should be noted that, in accordance with decision MC-4/8, the obligation to endeavour to identify individual stocks and sources of mercury in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 3 of the Convention is a continuing obligation.

#### **SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has attempted to identify stocks and sources pursuant to paragraph 5 (a) of article 3 but has determined that there are none, or that any stocks and sources did not exceed the thresholds, the party would reply “yes”, and could provide clarification in *part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.*
- If the party has identified stocks and sources pursuant to paragraph 5 (a) of article 3, the party would reply “yes”, and provide information under question 3.3 (a) (i), such as:
  - The process used to identify the stocks and sources;
  - The amounts (in metric tons) of mercury or mercury compounds in those stocks or being generated by those sources;
  - The date of the most recent assessment;
  - Whether the result of the assessment is available online and where it can be accessed (*if it is not available online, the party may wish to attach the result of the assessment*).
- If the party has attempted to identify stocks and sources pursuant to paragraph 5 (a) of article 3 but either has been unable to complete the task, or the party has completed the task but the results are not comprehensive or conclusive, the party would reply “yes” and provide an explanation under question 3.3 (a) (i), for example:

If the party has identified stocks and sources:

- The amounts (in metric tons per year) of mercury or mercury compounds in those stocks or being generated by those sources;
- The date of the most recent assessment;
- Whether the result of the assessment is available online and where it can be accessed (*if it is not available online, the party may wish to attach the result of the assessment*).

If the party has been unable to complete the task:

- The anticipated date for completion of the task; or
- The reasons preventing completion of the task.

If the party has attempted to identify stocks and sources pursuant to paragraph 5 (a) of article 3 but the results are not comprehensive or conclusive:

- Any proposed steps to conclude the task, and the anticipated date for completion of the task; or
- If no further steps are contemplated, the party may wish to attach the result of the assessment to date.

- If the party has not “endeavoured to identify” stocks and sources pursuant to paragraph 5 (a) of article 3, the party would reply “no” and explain the reasons preventing the party from

implementing paragraph 5 (a) of article 3; the proposed actions to meet the obligation; and the anticipated date for completion of the actions.

**Question 3.4:** Does the party have excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities? (para. 5 (b))

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please explain the measures taken to ensure that the excess mercury was disposed of in accordance with the guidelines for environmentally sound management referred to in paragraph 3 (a) of article 11 using operations that did not lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct re-use or alternative uses. (para. 5 (b), para. 11)

**NOTES:** Article 3, paragraph 5 (b), requires a party to “take measures to ensure that, where the party determines that excess mercury from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities is available, such mercury is disposed of in accordance with the guidelines for environmentally sound management referred to in paragraph 3 (a) of article 11, using operations that do not lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct re-use or alternative uses”.

Accordingly, when a chlor-alkali plant is decommissioned, the party may determine that the mercury that becomes available from the decommissioning is “excess” to its requirements. If the party determines that such mercury is excess, the party must take measures to ensure that such mercury is disposed of in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 11, either within the party’s territory or by export to another party for disposal in accordance with paragraph 3 (a) of article 11.

The guidelines developed under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal that are referred to in paragraph 3 (a) of article 11 are available on the Basel Convention website.<sup>11</sup>

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party does not have chlor-alkali facilities that have been decommissioned or has determined that it does not have excess mercury from any chlor-alkali facilities that have been decommissioned, it would reply “**no**” and move to the next question.
- If the party has chlor-alkali facilities that have been decommissioned, and has determined that there is excess mercury available from that decommissioning, the party would reply “**yes**” and provide an explanation of the measures taken pursuant to paragraph 5 (b) of article 3.
- If the party has not made a determination that the mercury from that decommissioning is excess, it would reply **neither “yes” nor “no”** but would provide an explanation in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objective of the Convention and could add any other information in part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.*

**Question 3.5:** \*Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non-parties, for all exports of mercury from the party’s territory in the reporting period? (para. 6, para. 7)

- Yes, exports to parties  
 Yes, exports to non-parties  
 No  
 No, no export

If **yes**,

(a) and the party has submitted copies of the consent forms to the secretariat, then no further information is needed.

If the party has not previously provided such copies, it is recommended that it do so.

Otherwise, please provide other suitable information showing that the relevant requirements of paragraph 6 of article 3 have been met.

<sup>11</sup> Available at [www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalMatters/DevelopmentofTechnicalGuidelines/TechnicalGuidelines/tabid/8025/Default.aspx](http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalMatters/DevelopmentofTechnicalGuidelines/TechnicalGuidelines/tabid/8025/Default.aspx).

Supplemental: Please provide information on the use of the exported mercury.

(b) If exports were based on a general notification in accordance with article 3, paragraph 7, please indicate, if available, the total amount exported and any relevant terms or conditions in the general notification related to use.

**NOTES:** This question relates solely to the export of mercury, which includes mixtures of mercury with other substances, including alloys of mercury, with a mercury concentration of at least 95 per cent by weight. It does not relate to export of mercury compounds, mercury-added products or mercury wastes. Further, as set out in paragraph 2 of article 3, it does not apply to:

- (a) Quantities of mercury or mercury compounds to be used for laboratory-scale research or as a reference standard;
- (b) Naturally occurring trace quantities of mercury or mercury compounds present in such products as non-mercury metals, ores or mineral products, including coal or products derived from these materials, and unintentional trace quantities in chemical products;
- (c) Mercury-added products.

The forms<sup>12</sup> referred to in question 3.5 (a) and (b) are the forms adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting that may be used by parties and non-parties for providing consent for trade in mercury under article 3, namely:

- (a) **Form A:** Form for the provision of written consent by a party to the import of mercury;
- (b) **Form B:** Form for the provision of written consent by a non-party to the import of mercury;
- (c) **Form D:** Form for general notification of consent to import mercury.

The list of parties to the Convention is available on the Convention website,<sup>13</sup> as is the list of designated national focal points<sup>14</sup> with regard to the consent of importing parties under Article 3.

Paragraph 6 of article 3 requires parties to allow exports only with written consent from the importing parties or importing non-parties, and only for allowed purposes. Therefore, if mercury is exported by a party, the party should have received written consent (e.g., through *form A: Form for the provision of written consent by a party to the import of mercury*) or relied on the general notification provided for under article 3, paragraph 7 (i.e., *form D: Form for general notification of consent to import mercury*). It should be noted that exports from a party to a non-party require the party to receive, in addition to the written consent of the non-party, certification demonstrating that the non-party has measures in place to ensure the protection of human health and the environment and to ensure its compliance with the provisions of articles 10 and 11, and that the mercury will be used only for a use allowed to a party under the Convention or for environmentally sound interim storage as set out in article 10.

In decision MC-1/2, on guidance in relation to mercury supply sources and trade, the Conference of the parties adopted the guidance on completing the forms required under article 3 related to trade in mercury.<sup>15</sup> This guidance includes information on the scope of article 3 (i.e., what is not covered, namely mercury waste (article 11) and mercury-added products (article 4)); which forms can be used in which circumstance and what considerations should be taken into account before issuing consent; information to be provided in each section; the role of the registers and how to use them; where to obtain the forms; and how to transmit the forms. The guidance makes clear that parties should consider the obligations under the Convention before giving consent, as once mercury has entered the territory of a party, the party has responsibilities under the Convention. Parties should undertake measures so that any import is used only for an allowed use, and is stored in an environmentally sound manner or disposed of in accordance with article 11.

<sup>12</sup> Available at <https://minamataconvention.org/en/documents/forms-related-article-3-mercury-trade>.

<sup>13</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/tabid/3428/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/tabid/3428/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

<sup>14</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/FocalPoints/tabid/7708/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/FocalPoints/tabid/7708/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

<sup>15</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.1/5, annexes II and III, available at [www.minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/forms\\_and\\_guidance\\_document/guidance\\_forms\\_article3\\_EN.pdf](http://www.minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/forms_and_guidance_document/guidance_forms_article3_EN.pdf).

The list of parties that have given general notification of consent to import are held in a public register by the secretariat that is accessible on the Convention website.<sup>16</sup>

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has exported mercury to either a party or a non-party, or both, and in such a case has received consent or relied on a general notification of consent in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non-parties, for all exports of mercury from the party's territory to a party or non-party in the reporting period, it would reply “**yes, exports to parties**” and/or “**yes, exports to non-parties**”, and, for each export:
  - If the party has not previously provided copies of such consent received, it is recommended that it do so at the time of reporting;
  - If the party cannot provide copies, it is requested to provide information showing that the relevant requirements of paragraph 6 of article 3 have been met. Unless the export was made to a party or non-party under a general notification, the information sought under question 3.5 (a) should be available from *form A: Form for the provision of written consent by a party to the import of mercury*, which should have been provided by the importing party, or *form B: Form for the provision of written consent by a non-party to the import of mercury*, which should have been provided by the importing non-party. If the party chooses to respond to the supplemental aspect of question 3.5 (a), the party could specify whether the imported mercury was intended for environmentally sound interim storage in accordance with article 10 or whether it was intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention. If the mercury was intended for interim storage, information on the intended use, if known, could be provided;
  - If the export of mercury was based on a general notification of consent by an importing party or non-party, the party should specify the export as such and include any terms and conditions under which the importing party or non-party has provided such consent. The information on relevant terms or conditions may be found in section C of *form D: Form for general notification of consent to import mercury* that was provided by the party or non-party to the secretariat as its written consent to import mercury.
- If the party has exported mercury to either a party or a non-party, or both, and for either case has not received consent, it would answer “**no**” and might wish to provide, in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention*, an explanation of why there were such exports, and measures being taken to prevent that situation in future.
- If the party has not exported mercury or mercury compounds from its territory, the party would reply “**no**” and specify in *part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so*, that the reason for selecting no is the absence of exports.

<sup>16</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Notifications/tabid/3826/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Notifications/tabid/3826/language/en-US/Default.aspx).



**Question 3.6:** Has the party allowed the import of mercury from a non-party?

- No  
 Yes

If **yes**, and the party has submitted copies of the consent forms to the secretariat, then no further information is needed.

If the party has not previously provided such copies, it is recommended that it do so.

Otherwise, please provide other suitable information showing that the relevant requirements of paragraph 8 of article 3 have been met.

Supplemental: Please provide information on the quantities and countries of origin.

- The importing party has relied on paragraph 7 of article 3.
- If **yes**, or if the party relied on paragraph 7 of article 3, did the non-party provide certification that the mercury is not from sources identified under paragraph 3 or paragraph 5 (b) of article 3? (para. 8)
- Yes
- No
- The party has submitted its general notification of consent, applied paragraph 9 of article 3, and provided information on the quantities and countries of origin.
- If **no**, please explain.

**NOTES:** This question relates solely to the export of mercury, which includes mixtures of mercury with other substances, including alloys of mercury, with a mercury concentration of at least 95 per cent by weight. It does not relate to the export of mercury compounds, mercury-added products or mercury wastes. Further, as set out in paragraph 2 of article 3, it does not apply to:

- (a) Quantities of mercury or mercury compounds to be used for laboratory-scale research or as a reference standard;
- (b) Naturally occurring trace quantities of mercury or mercury compounds present in such products as non-mercury metals, ores, or mineral products, including coal, or products derived from these materials, and unintentional trace quantities in chemical products;
- (c) Mercury-added products.

Paragraph 8 of article 3 requires a party to not allow the import of mercury from a non-party to which it will provide its written consent unless the non-party has provided certification that the mercury is not from sources identified as not allowed under paragraph 3 or paragraph 5 (b) – in other words, that it is not from primary mining or mercury determined by the exporting non-party to be excess mercury from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities.

The consent forms<sup>17</sup> referred to in question 3.6 are the forms adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting and to be used by parties and non-parties for providing consent for trade in mercury under article 3, namely:

- (a) **Form A:** Form for the provision of written consent by a party to the import of mercury;
- (b) **Form C:** Form for non-party certification of the source of mercury to be exported to a party (to be used in conjunction with form A and form D, when required);
- (c) **Form D:** Form for general notification of consent to import mercury.

The list of parties to the Convention is available on the Convention website,<sup>18</sup> as is a list of the designated national focal points.<sup>19</sup> In some cases, non-parties have also notified the secretariat of their national focal point.

In the case of a party allowing imports from a non-party, the party would have provided its written consent by using *form A: Form for the provision of written consent by a party to the import of mercury*. The information that is required to be reported under this question is necessary to confirm

<sup>17</sup> Available at <https://minamataconvention.org/en/documents/forms-related-article-3-mercury-trade>.

<sup>18</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/tabid/3428/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/tabid/3428/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

<sup>19</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/FocalPoints/tabid/7708/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/FocalPoints/tabid/7708/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

that the requirements of paragraph 8 of article 3 have been met, namely that the mercury that has been imported is neither from primary mercury mining nor mercury determined by the exporting non-party to be excess mercury from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities.

The non-party exporting country should have provided a *form C: Form for non-party certification of the source of mercury to be exported to a party* regardless of whether the importing party had provided consent through a *form A: Form for the provision of written consent by a party to the import of mercury* or through a general notification.

Paragraph 9 of article 3 allowed a party that submitted a general notification to waive the restrictions imposed by the Convention on the imports of mercury from a non-party, provided that it maintained comprehensive restrictions on the export of mercury and had domestic measures in place to ensure that imported mercury is managed in an environmentally sound manner. The party was required to provide a notification of such decision to the secretariat, including information describing its export restrictions and domestic regulatory measures, as well as information on the quantities and countries of origin of mercury imported from non-parties. The above procedure was available until the conclusion of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Parties that notified the secretariat in that regard are listed on the Convention website.<sup>20</sup>

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has not imported mercury or mercury compounds from a non-party it would reply “no” and move to the next question.
- If the party has imported mercury or mercury compounds from a non-party either by providing consent using form A or by a general notification form D, accompanied by form C from the non-party to certify that the mercury was not from sources identified under paragraph 3 or paragraph 5 (b), the party would reply “yes” and, for each import:
  - If the party has not previously provided copies of its consent it is recommended that the party do so;
  - If the party cannot provide copies of the consent, the party would provide information to demonstrate that it provided its consent, and that it had determined that the mercury to be imported from the non-party did not come from primary mining or mercury determined to be excess mercury from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities;
  - Parties are encouraged to provide relevant information (in metric tons) on the quantity of mercury imported from a non-party for the respective annual periods and countries of origin in response to the supplemental question;
  - If the non-party provided certification that the mercury was not from sources identified under paragraph 3 or paragraph 5 (b) of article 3, it is recommended that the importing party provide this. If it is not possible to provide this, it is recommended that the importing party provide other suitable information showing that the relevant requirements of paragraph 8 of article 3 have been met.
- If the party has submitted its general notification of consent and applied paragraph 9 of article 3 (including having provided the requisite information), the party would select this option, and no further information is required.

#### Article 4: Mercury-added products

**Question 4.1:** Has the party taken any appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in part I of annex A to the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products? (para. 1)

*If the party is implementing paragraph 2, please skip to question 4.2.*

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures.

If **no**, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

<sup>20</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Notifications/tabid/3826/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Notifications/tabid/3826/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

Yes

No

If **yes**, for which products (please list)? (para. 1, para. 2 (d))

**NOTES:** A party implementing paragraph 2 of article 4 need not address this question and would move to the next question.

Article 2 (f) defines a “mercury-added product” as a product or product component that contains mercury or a mercury compound that was intentionally added.

Paragraph 1 of article 4 requires each party to not allow, by taking appropriate measures, the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in part I of annex A after the phase-out date specified for those products, except where an exclusion is specified in annex A or the party has a registered exemption pursuant to article 6. For the purposes of the Convention, the phase-out date refers to 31 December of the year specified.

The Conference of the Parties in decision MC-4/3 amended annex A to the Convention to include additional products. The amendment entered into force for each party that has not notified the depositary in writing that it is unable to accept the amendment on 28 September 2023, except for those parties that made a declaration with regard to amendment of annexes in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 30, in which case the amendment enters into force for that party on the ninetieth day after the date on which it has deposited with the depositary its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with respect to the amendment. A list of parties that have made such a declaration is available at <https://minamataconvention.org/en/parties/notifications>.

Paragraph 1 of article 6 provides that any State or regional economic integration organization may register for one or more exemptions from the phase-out dates listed in annex A by notifying the secretariat in writing on becoming a party to the Convention or, in the case of any mercury-added product that is added by an amendment to annex A, no later than the date on which the applicable amendment enters into force for the party.

A list of parties’ exemptions can be found on the Convention website.<sup>21</sup>

The measures a party may have taken could include relevant measures under environmental law, hazardous substances management law or laws and regulations covering medical, cosmetic, electrical or other products, and product standards.

#### **SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has taken appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in part I of annex A to the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products, the party would reply “**yes**” and describe the measures taken. The party may wish to include, for each of the categories of product listed in part I for which it has taken a measure:
  - A description of the measure taken and the reference to the legal authorities, where applicable;
  - The date the measure was taken;
  - The date the measure took effect (or is expected to take effect).
- If the party has not taken appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in part I of annex A to the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products, the party would reply “**no**” and might wish to provide, in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention*, an explanation of why it has not taken such measures, including an estimate of when it expects to have taken them.
- If the party registered for an exemption on becoming a party (para. 1 (a) of article 6) for one or more of the phase-out dates listed in part I, the party would reply “**yes**” to the second part of the question.
- If the party has taken measures in relation to some or all of the categories of product listed in part I but also has an exemption for one or more categories, it would reply “**yes**” to the first part of the

<sup>21</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Exemptions/tabid/5967/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Exemptions/tabid/5967/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

question (and provide the information requested), and would reply “yes” to the second part of the question and list the products for which it has an exemption.

- If the party has neither taken appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in part I of annex A to the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products nor registered for an exemption on becoming a party (para. 1 (a) of article 6) for one or more of the phase-out dates listed in part I, the party would reply “no” to both parts of the question and might wish to explain the reasons it has done neither in *part C*:  
*Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention.*

**Question 4.2:** If yes (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4): (para. 2)

Has the party reported to the Conference of the Parties at the first opportunity a description of the measures or strategies implemented, including a quantification of the reductions achieved? (para. 2 (a))

- Yes  
 No

Has the party implemented measures or strategies to reduce the use of mercury in any products listed in part I of annex A for which a de minimis value has not yet been obtained? (para. 2 (b))

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

Has the party considered additional measures to achieve further reductions? (para. 2 (c))

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

**NOTES:** Only a party that at the time of its ratification provided a notification that it was implementing paragraph 2 of article 4 needs to respond to this question. A party not implementing paragraph 2 would move to the next question.

Paragraph 2 of article 4 states that a party may, as an alternative to paragraph 1 of article 4, indicate, at the time of ratification by it or on the entry into force for it of an amendment to annex A, that it will implement different measures or strategies to address products listed in part I of annex A. The party may choose this alternative only if it can demonstrate that it has already reduced to a de minimis level the manufacture, import and export of the large majority of the products listed in part I of annex A and that it has implemented measures or strategies to reduce the use of mercury in additional products not listed in part I of annex A at the time when it notifies the secretariat of its decision to use this alternative.

The list of parties implementing paragraph 2 of article 4 can be found on the Convention website.<sup>22</sup>

**Question 4.3:** Has the party taken two or more measures for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein? (para. 3)

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

**NOTES:** Dental amalgam is the only mercury-added product listed in part II of annex A. Part II of annex A provides a list of measures to be taken in phasing down the use of dental amalgam. A party is required to implement at least two measures from that list. In decision MC-3/2, the Conference of the Parties encouraged parties to take more than two measures in accordance with part II of annex A.

<sup>22</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Notifications/tabid/3826/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Notifications/tabid/3826/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has taken two or more measures, it would reply “**yes**” and provide information on the measures taken. Such information could include which measures were taken, the date on which each measure was implemented and the effectiveness of the measures.
- If a party has not taken two such measures, it would reply “**no**” and might wish to provide an explanation in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention*.

**Question 4.4:** Has the party taken measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed for it under article 4? (para. 5)

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures.

**NOTES:** Some of the products in the categories listed in part I of annex A (e.g., switches, relays, batteries) can be used as components of consumer, commercial and industrial products, including automobiles, appliances, space heaters, ovens, air handling units, security systems, levelling devices and pumps.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party does not have facilities or processes that incorporate mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed for it under article 4, the party would reply “**no**” and provide this explanation in *part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so*.
- If the party has taken measures to prevent the incorporation of those mercury-added products into assembled products, the party would reply “**yes**” and describe the measures it has taken to prevent that use.
- If the party has not taken measures to prevent the incorporation of those mercury-added products into assembled products, the party would reply “**no**” and might wish to explain the reasons it has not done so in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention*.

**Question 4.5:** Has the party discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of mercury-added products not covered by any known use in accordance with article 4, paragraph 6? (para. 6)

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures taken.

If **no**, has there been an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product that demonstrates environmental or health benefits? Has the party provided to the secretariat, as appropriate, information on any such product?

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please name the product: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES:** This question does not refer to any products that were known at the time the Convention entered into force for each party. The question refers to new mercury-added products that have become known since the entry into force of the Convention for the party. Each party has an obligation to discourage the manufacturing and distribution in commerce of such mercury-added products, unless it undertakes an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product, and that assessment demonstrates environmental or human health benefits. Paragraph 6 of article 4 requires the party to provide to the secretariat, as appropriate, information on any such product, including any information on the environmental and human health risks and benefits of the product.

A party should report on the measures it has taken to discourage the manufacturing and distribution in commerce of such mercury-added products, such as:

- Provision of information on mercury-free alternatives (e.g., under articles 17 and 18 of the Convention);
- Informing industry of the need to report and the interests of the government to pursue products that do not contain mercury;
- Administrative or regulatory measures related to the introduction of new, previously unknown mercury-added products.

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of such mercury-added products, the party would reply “**yes**” and provide information on the measures taken. Such information could include, for example:
  - The effectiveness of the measures taken;
  - The date the measures came into effect.
- If the party has not discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of such mercury-added products, the party would reply “**no**”, and might wish to explain, in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention*, the challenges it has in implementing this measure.

**NOTE:** If the party responded “no” to the above/first question, only then would it respond to the second question.

- If the party has undertaken an assessment of the risks and benefits of such mercury-added product(s), in accordance with paragraph 6 of article 4, that demonstrated environmental or health benefits, the party would reply “**yes**” as indicated in the reporting format and in *part E*:
  - Name the product(s);
  - Indicate whether it has provided information on the product(s) to the secretariat as required by the Convention text.
- If the party has not undertaken an assessment of the risks and benefits of mercury-added product(s) not covered by any known uses, the party would reply “**no**” and might wish to explain, in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention*, the challenges it has in implementing this measure.

### Article 5: Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used

**Question 5.1:** Are there facilities within the territory of the party that use mercury or mercury compounds for the processes listed in annex B to the Minamata Convention in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 5 of the Convention? (para. 5)

- Yes
- No
- Do not know (*please explain*)

If **yes**, please provide information on measures taken to address emissions and releases of mercury or mercury compounds from such facilities.

If available, please provide information on the number and type of facilities and the estimated annual amount of mercury or mercury compounds used in those facilities.

Please provide information on how much mercury (in metric tons) is used in the processes listed in the two first entries of part II of annex B in the last year of the reporting period.

**NOTES:** For the purposes of article 5 and annex B, manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used do not include processes using mercury-added products, processes for manufacturing mercury-added products or processes that process mercury-containing waste. Also, for the purposes of article 5 and annex B, the definitions of “mercury” and “mercury compounds” are those contained in article 2.

Each party is to endeavour to identify facilities within its territory that use mercury or mercury compounds for processes listed in annex B and submit to the secretariat, no later than three years after

the date of entry into force of the Convention for it, information on the number and types of such facilities and the estimated annual amount of mercury or mercury compounds used in those facilities.

The process of endeavouring to identify facilities within the party's territory could include a reference to any licensing or registration schemes for facilities using mercury or mercury compounds, the party's implementation plan developed pursuant to article 20 (if one was developed) or the Minamata Initial Assessment (if one was undertaken).

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has determined that it has no facilities within its territory that use mercury or mercury compounds for the processes listed in annex B to the Minamata Convention, the party would reply “no” and move to the next question.
- If the party has either not attempted to identify whether it has facilities within its territory that use mercury or mercury compounds for the processes listed in annex B to the Minamata Convention, or has initiated the identification process but has not completed the process, the party would reply “do not know” and might wish to provide an explanation in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention* and/or *part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.*
- If the party has identified facilities within its territory that use mercury or mercury compounds, the party would reply “yes” and provide information on:
  - The number and type of facilities (if available);
  - The estimated total amount (in metric tons) of mercury or mercury compounds used in those facilities in the annual periods of the reporting period;
  - The measures taken to address emissions and releases of mercury or mercury compounds from such facilities.
- If the party has identified facilities within its territory that use mercury or mercury compounds in facilities producing vinyl chloride monomer, or sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate, the party would indicate, for each of those processes, how much mercury (in metric tons) was used in those processes in the last year of the reporting period.

**Question 5.2:** Are measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in part I of annex B after the phase-out date specified in that annex for the individual process? (para. 2)

Chlor-alkali production:

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable (*do not have those facilities*)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

Acetaldehyde production in which mercury or mercury compounds are used as a catalyst:

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable (*do not have those facilities*)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

If **no** to either of the questions above, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

- Yes
- No

If **yes**, for which process(es)? (*please list*)

**NOTES:** Chlor-alkali production and acetaldehyde production are manufacturing processes that may use mercury or mercury compounds and that are subject to article 5, paragraph 2, and as such are listed in annex B, part I, for phase-out by 2025 and 2018, respectively. The measures that would not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in chlor-alkali production or acetaldehyde production

would generally be found in a party's hazardous substances control law, environmental law or permitting requirements, or other policy instruments.

Paragraph 1 of article 6 provides that any State or regional economic integration organization may register for one or more exemptions from the phase-out dates listed in annex B by notifying the secretariat in writing on becoming a party to the Convention. This option is not available after a State or regional economic integration organization becomes a party.

A list of parties' exemptions can be found on the Convention website.<sup>23</sup>

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party does not have facilities using mercury for chlor-alkali production and/or acetaldehyde production, the party would reply “**not applicable**” under the applicable subheading and move to the next question.
- If the party has measures in place to phase out the use of mercury in chlor-alkali production by 2025 and/or acetaldehyde production by 2018, the party would reply “**yes**” and provide further information on the measures in the place for the indicated process(es).
- If the party has registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6, the party would reply “**yes**” and list the process(es) for which it registered exemptions.
- If the party has not registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6, the party would reply “**no**”.
- If the party has replied “**no**” to either of the first two parts to the question and has not registered for an exemption, it may wish to provide, in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention*, an explanation of why it has not taken such measures, and a timetable for their adoption.

**Question 5.3:** Are measures in place to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in part II of annex B in accordance with the provisions set out therein? (para. 3)

Vinyl chloride monomer production:

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable (*do not have these facilities*)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

Sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate:

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable (*do not have these facilities*)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

Production of polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts:

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable (*do not have these facilities*)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

**NOTES:** Vinyl chloride monomer production, sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate production, and the production of polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts are subject to article 5, paragraph 3, and as such are listed in part II of annex B, with specific provisions.

The measures to be taken must include those listed in part II of annex B under the respective listed processes.

<sup>23</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Exemptions/tabid/5967/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Exemptions/tabid/5967/language/en-US/Default.aspx).



**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party does not have facilities that use mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in part II of annex B, or if the party has facilities using the processes listed in part II of annex B that have never used mercury or mercury compounds in those processes, the party would reply “**not applicable**” under the applicable subheading and move to the next question.
- If the party does have facilities that use mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in part II of annex B, the party would reply “**yes**”, as appropriate, and provide information such as:
  - The measures taken pursuant to part II of annex B;
  - The date of implementation of the measures;
  - The effectiveness of the measures.
- If the party has facilities that have used mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in part II of annex B but no longer use mercury or mercury compounds in those processes, the party would reply “**yes**”, as appropriate, and provide information such as:
  - The measures taken pursuant to part II of annex B;
  - The date of implementation of the measures;
  - The effectiveness of the measures.
- If the party has replied “**no**” to one or more parts of the question, or if the party has replied “**yes**” but has not taken the measures provided for in part II of annex B, the party may wish to provide, in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention*, a timetable for their adoption and an explanation of why it has not taken such measures.

**Question 5.4:** Is there any use of mercury or mercury compounds in a facility using the manufacturing processes listed in annex B that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party? (para. 6)

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please explain the circumstances.

**NOTES:** Paragraph 6 of article 5 addresses any facility that began operation after the entry into force of the Convention for a party. In particular, it requires a party not to allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in such a facility if it is using the manufacturing processes listed in annex B. This paragraph does not apply to any facility producing polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has a facility that did not exist prior to entry into force of the Convention for it and that facility is using mercury or mercury compounds in the manufacturing processes listed in annex B, the party would reply “**yes**” and provide information such as:
  - The number of such facilities;
  - The manufacturing process that is using mercury or mercury compounds;
  - For each manufacturing process, the annual amount (in metric tons) of mercury or mercury compounds used.
- If the party has a facility that did not exist prior to entry into force of the Convention for it and that facility is producing polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts, the party would reply “**yes**” and explain that the facility is producing polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts.
- If the party does not have any such facility, it would reply “**no**”.

**Question 5.5:** Is there any facility that has been developed using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention? (para. 7)

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please provide information on how the party tried to discourage this development or that the party has demonstrated the environmental and health benefits to the Conference of the Parties and that there are no technically and economically feasible mercury-free alternatives available providing such benefits.

**NOTES:** Paragraph 7 of article 5 refers to the date of entry into force of the Convention, and not to the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party. The date of entry into force of the Convention was 16 August 2017. The term “discourage” is not defined in the Convention, but could include measures ranging from a ban on mercury use in any industrial process to making information available on, or providing incentives for the adoption of, alternate processes that do not use mercury or mercury compounds. Measures that the party may have taken in meeting this obligation could include provision of information on mercury-free alternatives (e.g., under articles 17 and 18 of the Convention).

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party does not have manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used, the party would reply “**no**” and move to the next question.
- If the party has not identified any facility that has been developed using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for it, the party would reply “**no**” and move to the next question.
- If the party has identified any facility that has been developed using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention, the party would reply “**yes**” and:
  - If the party had attempted to discourage the development of such a facility, the party would describe the measures it took; or
  - If the party has determined that the manufacturing process provides significant environmental and health benefits and that there are no technically and economically feasible mercury-free alternatives available providing such benefits, and has demonstrated that to the satisfaction of the Conference of the Parties, the party would provide evidence of this.

**Article 7: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining**

**Question 7.1:** Have steps been taken to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 within your territory? (para. 2)

- Yes
- No
- There is no artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 in which mercury amalgamation is used in the territory.

If **yes**, please provide information on the steps.

**NOTES:** Question 7.1 refers to artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing using mercury or mercury compounds. Article 2 (a) of the Convention defines artisanal and small-scale gold mining as gold mining conducted by individual miners or small enterprises with limited capital investment and production. Paragraph 1 of article 7 limits the application of the measures in article 7 and annex C to artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing where mercury amalgamation is used to extract gold from ore. Large-scale gold mining, artisanal and small-scale mining for materials other than gold and artisanal and small-scale gold mining that does not use mercury are not subject to article 7.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party does not have artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing using mercury amalgamation to extract gold from ore, the party would reply “**there is no ...**” and move to question 7.5.
- If the party does have artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing using mercury amalgamation to extract gold from ore, and it has taken steps to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the

environment of mercury from, such mining and processing, the party would reply “yes” and provide information such as:

- The steps the party has taken;
  - The date(s) on which the steps were taken;
  - The effectiveness of the steps.
- If the party does have artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing using mercury amalgamation to extract gold from ore, but has not taken steps to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from such mining and processing, it would reply “no” and might wish to provide, in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention*, information on:
    - The reasons it has not taken any steps;
    - When it anticipates taking steps.

**Question 7.2:** Has the party determined, and notified the secretariat, that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant?

- Yes  
 No

If **no**, please proceed to article 8 on emissions.

**NOTES:** Paragraph 3 of article 7 requires a party that has determined that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant to notify the secretariat. The list of parties that have so notified the secretariat is available on the Convention website.<sup>24</sup>

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has determined and notified the secretariat that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant, it would reply “yes”.
- If the party has determined that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is not more than insignificant, it would reply “no” and might wish to move to question 7.5.
- If the party has not determined whether or not artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is not more than insignificant, it would reply “no” and might wish to move to question 7.5.

**Question 7.3:** Has the party developed and implemented a national action plan and submitted it to the secretariat? (para. 3 (a), para. 3 (b))

- Yes  
 No  
 In progress

**NOTES:** This question applies only to a party that has replied “yes” to question 7.2.

Paragraphs 3 (a) and 3 (b) of article 7 require a party that has notified the secretariat that it has artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing that is more than insignificant to develop and implement a national action plan, and to submit that plan to the secretariat within three years of either the date of entry into force of the Convention for it or the date of notification to the secretariat, whichever is later.

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has developed and is implementing a national action plan, it would reply “yes”.
- If the party has not developed a national action plan, it would reply “no”.

<sup>24</sup> Available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Notifications/tabid/3826/language/en-US/Default.aspx](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Notifications/tabid/3826/language/en-US/Default.aspx).

- If the party is either still developing the national action plan or has completed it but is not yet implementing it, or has not submitted the national action plan to the secretariat, it would reply “**in progress**”.

**Question 7.4:** Attach your most recent review that must be completed under paragraph 3 (c) of article 7, unless it is not yet due.

**NOTES:** This question applies only to a party that has replied “**yes**” to question 7.3.

Paragraph 3 (c) of article 7 requires a party that has more than insignificant artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in its territory to provide a review every three years of its progress in meeting its obligations under article 7.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If such a review by the party is due and has been completed, the party would either:
  - Attach the review; or
  - Indicate where it is available online.
- If such a review by the party is due but has not been completed, the party may wish to provide a timetable for the completion of the review and an explanation in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention* and *part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.*

**Question 7.5:** Supplemental: Has the party cooperated with other countries or relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objectives of this article? (para. 4)

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please provide information.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has participated in any bilateral or regional cooperation, or any projects undertaken in cooperation with, or with support from, intergovernmental organizations (the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), etc.) or other entities (non-parties or non-governmental organizations) to achieve the objectives of article 7, the party would reply “**yes**” and might wish to provide information, including:
  - The nature of the cooperation, support or project;
  - With whom the party cooperated;
  - The date of cooperation;
  - Whether the result of the cooperation is available online and where it can be accessed (if not available online, the party may wish to attach any available information).
- If the party has not cooperated with other countries, relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objectives of article 7, the party would reply “**no**”.

**Article 8: Emissions**

**Question 8.1:** Identify any annex D source categories for which there are new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8.

For each of those source categories describe the measures in place, including the effectiveness of such measures, to implement the requirements of paragraph 4 of article 8.

Has the party required the use of best available techniques or best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control and where feasible reduce emissions for new sources no later than five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party? (para. 4)

- Yes  
 No (*please explain*)

**NOTES:** Paragraph 2 (b) defines a “relevant source” as a source falling within one of the source categories listed in annex D to the Convention. Paragraph 3 of article 8 requires a party with relevant sources to take measures to control emissions (from those sources). This question relates solely to “new sources” of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8. Paragraph 4 of article 8 requires the use of BAT and BEP for new sources within the source categories listed in annex D within five years of entry into force of the Convention for a party. A party may also use emission limit values that are consistent with the application of BAT.

The party would first determine which, if any, of the source categories listed in annex D have been identified in its territory. It would then determine whether there are any new sources (as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8), namely any relevant source within a category listed in annex D, the construction or substantial modification of which is commenced at least one year after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party. Potential sources of information that a party could use to determine whether there are new relevant sources in its territory might include, for example, emissions inventories or permitting requirements. As article 8 concerns controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions of mercury and mercury compounds, often expressed as “total mercury”, to the atmosphere through measures to control emissions from the point sources falling within the source categories listed in annex D, “effectiveness” could be suggested by the extent to which such emissions have not increased, or have been reduced since the introduction of the measures.

The party may then wish to refer to the measures outlined in the *Guidance on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices*<sup>25</sup> adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting.

In describing the measures taken, the party may wish to include a reference to legislation and/or regulation enacted to require the application of BAT and BEP. The party may wish to refer to its national documents, or relevant guidance provided to facilities, and attach relevant documentation.

The question requires the party to describe the effectiveness of the measures taken. The description of the effectiveness of the implementation of measures by a party is separate from the effectiveness of the Convention to be evaluated pursuant to article 22. In describing the progress in the implementation of measures, the party might consider the responsiveness of facilities in adopting BAT and BEP, and an estimate of emissions reduction achieved or expected.

#### **SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has determined that it has in its territory no new sources in any of the source categories listed in annex D, it would reply “**no**” and explain that it has no new sources. The party can then move to question 8.2.
- If the party has identified that it has in its territory new sources in any of the source categories listed in annex D, it would list those source categories.
- If the party has required the use of BAT (or emission limit values that are consistent with the application of BAT) and BEP to control and, where feasible, reduce emissions for new sources no later than five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party, it would reply “**yes**” and describe:
  - The BAT and BEP measures it has taken;
  - The date(s) on which the measures were taken;
  - The effectiveness of those measures (e.g., the responsiveness of facilities in adopting BAT and BEP as required and an estimate of emission reductions achieved or expected).
- If the party has identified that it has in its territory new sources in any of the source categories listed in annex D but has not required the use of BAT and BEP to control and, where feasible, reduce emissions for new sources no later than five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party, or has initiated action to require such use of BAT and BEP that has not been completed, it would reply “**no**” and provide that explanation.

<sup>25</sup> UNEP/MINAMATACONVENTION/2019/1.

**Question 8.2:** Identify any annex D source categories for which there are existing sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (e) of article 8.

For each of those source categories, select and provide details on the measures implemented under paragraph 5 of article 8 and explain the progress that these applied measures have achieved in reducing emissions over time in your territory:

- A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Have the measures for existing sources under paragraph 5 of article 8 been implemented no later than 10 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- Yes
- No (*please explain*)

**NOTES:** In responding to this question, a party would first indicate which, if any, of the source categories listed in annex D have been identified in its territory, and whether there are any existing sources (as defined in paragraph 2 (e) of article 8). Potential sources of information that a party could use to determine whether there are new relevant sources in its territory might include, for example, emissions inventories or permitting requirements. The measures listed are those contained in paragraph 5 of article 8.

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has identified that it has in its territory existing sources in any of the source categories listed in annex D, the party would list those source categories.
- If the party has implemented one or more of the measures listed, the party may wish, for example, to:
  - Indicate which of the measures it has taken;
  - Indicate the date on which it took the measures;
  - Describe the effectiveness of those measures, including the responsiveness of facilities in responding to the measures and the estimated emission reductions achieved.
- If the party has implemented the measures within 10 years of entry into force of the Convention for it, the party would reply “**yes**”.
- If the party has not implemented the measures within 10 years of entry into force of the Convention for it, or has initiated action that has not been completed, the party would reply “**no**” and provide an explanation, including an indication of when it anticipates implementing measures.
- If the party has no existing sources, the party would reply “**no**” and explain that it has no existing sources.

**Question 8.3:** Has the party prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources within five years of entry into force of the Convention for it? (para. 7)

- Yes
- No
- Have not been a party for five years.

If **yes**, when was the inventory last updated?

Please indicate where this inventory is available.

If no such inventory exists, please explain.

**NOTES:** The Convention entered into force on 16 August 2017, and hence it will not have been in force for five years for any party for the reporting cycle ending on 31 December 2021. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted guidance<sup>26</sup> to assist a party in establishing its inventory of emissions from relevant sources.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources, it would reply “**yes**” and:
  - Whether the inventory is available online and, if so where (if not available online, either attach a copy of it to the report or indicate where it can be accessed);
  - The date of its most recent update.
- If the party has been a party for five or more years but has not prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources, it might wish to provide an explanation and an estimate of the date when the emissions inventory will be completed in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention and/or part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.*
- If the party has an inventory developed prior to the reporting period that has not been updated during the reporting period, it might wish to provide an explanation in *part E: Opportunity to provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text if the party chooses to do so.*
- If a party has not been a party for five years, it would also reply “Have not been a party for five years”. No further explanation is necessary.

**Question 8.4:** Has the party chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category? (para. 2 (b))

- Yes
- No

If **yes**, please explain how the criteria for any category include at least 75 per cent of the emissions from that category and explain how the party took into account guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

**NOTES:** Paragraph 2 (b) of article 8 allows a party to establish criteria to identify the sources covered within a source category listed in annex D so long as those criteria for any category include at least 75 per cent of the emissions from that category. The Conference of the Parties at its first meeting adopted guidance to assist a party in establishing such criteria. The guidance is available on the Convention website.<sup>27</sup>

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has not chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category, the party would reply “**no**” and move to the next question.
- If the party has chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category, the party would reply “**yes**” and explain how the criteria for any category include at least 75 per cent of the emissions from that category, and how the party took into account guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

<sup>26</sup> Available at <https://minamataconvention.org/en/documents/guidance-methodology-preparing-inventories-emissions-pursuant-article-8-minamata>.

<sup>27</sup> Available at <https://minamataconvention.org/en/documents/guidance-criteria-parties-may-develop-pursuant-paragraph-2b>.

**Question 8.5:** Has the party chosen to prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions from relevant sources and its expected targets, goals and outcomes? (para. 3)

Yes

No

If **yes**, has the party submitted its national plan to the Conference of the Parties under this article no later than 4 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

Yes

No (*please explain*)

**NOTES:** The development of a national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions and its expected targets, goals and outcomes is optional for a party under paragraph 3 of article 8. However, if a party develops such a plan, either as a stand-alone plan or as part of an implementation plan developed in accordance with article 20, the plan must be submitted to the Conference of the Parties within four years of entry into force of the Convention for the party.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has not decided to develop such a plan, the party would reply “**no**” to the first part of question 8.5 and move to the next question.
- If the party has decided to develop such a national plan, the party would reply “**yes**” to the first part of question 8.5.
- If the party has submitted its national plan to the Conference of the Parties within four years of entry into force of the Convention for the party, the party would reply “**yes**” to the second part of question 8.5.
- If the party has decided to develop, but has not completed, such a national plan, the party would reply “**no**” to the second part of question 8.5 and explain that the plan has not been finalized.
- If the party has developed its national plan but has not submitted it to the Conference of the Parties, it would reply “**no**” and explain the reasons it has not yet done so.

**Article 9: Releases**

**Question 9.1:** Are there, within the party’s territory, relevant sources of releases as defined in paragraph 2 (b) of article 9? (para. 4)

Yes

No

Do not know (*please explain*)

If **yes**, please indicate the measures taken to address releases from relevant sources and the effectiveness of those measures. (para. 5)

**NOTES:** Paragraph 3 of article 9 requires a party to identify its relevant point source categories within three years of entry into force of the Convention for it. Decision MC-3/4 provides clarity to assist a party in determining whether it has relevant point sources of release, namely:

- Categories of point sources of releases should not include potentially significant relevant point sources for which releases are addressed in other provisions of the Convention, irrespective of whether those other provisions include an inventory obligation;
- Diffuse sources should not be included;
- Source categories should be limited to those for which mercury releases have been documented;
- The obligation to ensure the environmentally sound management of waste set out under the Convention addresses significant releases to land and water;
- While wastewater is addressed under article 9, parties may additionally control wastewater under article 11 of the Convention.



As article 9 concerns controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions of mercury and mercury compounds, often expressed as “total mercury”, to land and water, “effectiveness” could be suggested by the extent to which such releases have not increased or have been reduced since the introduction of the measures.

Guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases has not been adopted by the Conference of the Parties. The measures to be taken by a party to control releases from a relevant source are set out in paragraph 5 of article 9. Paragraph 5 (b) refers to “best available techniques” and “best environmental practices”. Although guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practice pursuant to paragraph 7 (a) of article 9 has not been adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the terms are defined in article 2 of the Convention.

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has determined that there are no relevant sources of releases within its territory, the party would reply “**no**”.
- If the party has not identified relevant sources within its territory, either because the period since entry into force of the Convention for it is less than three years, because it has been unable to proceed pending the guidance from the Conference of the Parties, because it is still in the process of determining whether it has relevant sources or because it has not, for any reason, developed an inventory, the party would reply “**do not know**” and provide an explanation or information on the process it is following to enable it to make such a determination, and when it expects to make that determination.
- If the party has identified relevant sources of releases within its territory, it would reply “**yes**” and provide the following information:
  - The sources of releases and a description of each of the sources;
  - Which of the measures in paragraph 5 of article 9 it has taken to control the releases;
  - The date(s) on which the measures were taken;
  - The effectiveness of the measures implemented (e.g., the reduction in releases compared with a baseline prior to their implementation).
- If the party has identified relevant sources of releases within its territory and has replied “yes”, it may wish to provide the discharge limit values for the identified relevant sources.

**Question 9.2:** Has the party established an inventory of releases from relevant sources within five years of entry into force of the Convention for it? (para. 6)

- Yes
- Relevant sources do not exist in the territory
- Have not been a party for five years
- No (*please explain*)
- Do not know (*please explain*)

If **yes**, when was the inventory last updated?

Please indicate where the information is available.

**NOTES:** Paragraph 6 of article 9 requires each party to establish, as soon as practicable and no later than five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for it, and maintain thereafter, an inventory of releases from relevant sources. As the Convention entered into force on 16 August 2017, it will not have been in force for five years for any party for the reporting cycle ending on 31 December 2021. Guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases pursuant to paragraph 7 (b) of article 9 has not yet been adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party indicated under question 9.1 that it has no relevant sources of releases, it would reply “**relevant sources do not exist in the territory**”, and no further explanation is required.
- If the party indicated under question 9.1 that it has relevant sources of releases and it has established an inventory, the party would reply “**yes**” and provide the following information:

- Whether the inventory is available online, and if so, where;
  - If the inventory is not available online, either a copy of the inventory or information about where the inventory can be accessed;
  - The date of the most recent update of the inventory.
- If the party replied under question 9.1 that it does not know whether it has relevant sources, the party would reply “no” and repeat the explanation provided under question 9.1.
  - If the party replied under question 9.1 that it has relevant sources of releases but it has not established an inventory, it would reply “no” and explain why it has not done so.

**Article 10: Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury**

**Question 10.1:** Has the party taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner? (para. 2)

- Yes
- No
- Do not know (*please explain*).

If **yes**, please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner, and the effectiveness of those measures.

**NOTES:** Article 10 addresses mercury and mercury compounds when they are held in various locations prior to intended use. The scope of article 10 is limited to mercury and mercury compounds as defined in article 3.

Accordingly, it covers:

- (a) Mercury (elemental);
- (b) Mixtures of mercury with other substances, including alloys of mercury, with a mercury concentration of at least 95 per cent by weight;
- (c) Only the following mercury compounds: mercury (I) chloride (known also as calomel), mercury (II) oxide, mercury (II) sulphate, mercury (II) nitrate, cinnabar and mercury sulphide.

It does not cover waste mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 of article 11, as these are addressed in article 11.

The Convention does not define the term “interim storage”. However, the guidelines on the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury other than waste mercury,<sup>28</sup> adopted in decision MC-2/6 of the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting, refer to environmentally sound storage of mercury and mercury compounds other than waste mercury as being “storage in which the mercury or mercury compounds are managed in a manner that will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from the storage of such mercury and mercury compounds”.

Article 2 (k) defines an “allowed use” as any use by a party of mercury or mercury compounds consistent with the Convention, including, but not limited to, uses consistent with articles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Accordingly, interim storage can be associated with, but is not limited to, such locations as:

- Facilities supplying mercury or mercury compounds;
- Facilities associated with the trading of mercury or mercury compounds for an allowed use;
- Mercury-added product manufacturing plants;
- Sites with industrial processes using mercury;
- Sites where artisanal and small-scale gold mining is occurring;

<sup>28</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.2/5/Rev.1, annex.

- Other designated interim storage locations.

Measures that a party might wish to report could include:

- Identifying the mercury and mercury compounds that are being held in its territory;
- Determining the amounts of mercury and mercury compounds being stored in each location (see also paragraph 5 (a) of article 3);
- Development of multi-sectoral chemicals management plans that address mercury and mercury compounds;
- Licensing of interim storage facilities;
- Facility-specific measures consistent with the guidelines referred to above.

The party may be in the process of developing its Minamata Initial Assessment or implementation plan pursuant to article 20, and so may not yet be aware of locations in its territory where mercury is being stored on an interim basis.

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has not taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner, the party would reply “**no**” and might wish to provide clarification on why it has not taken such measures in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention*.
- If the party does not know whether it has locations in its territory that are storing mercury on an interim basis, or whether it has taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner, the party would reply “**do not know**” and provide an explanation or information on the process it is following to enable it to make such a determination and when it expects to make that determination.
- If the party has taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner, the party would reply “**yes**” and specify the measures it has taken, the date(s) on which the measures were taken, and the effectiveness of those measures.

#### Article 11: Mercury wastes

**Question 11.1:** Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party’s mercury waste? (para. 3)

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.

**NOTES:** For the provisions under article 11, the broad definition of “mercury compounds” as defined in article 2 (e) of the Convention applies. Paragraph 2 of article 11 of the Convention requires that parties manage, in an environmentally sound manner, all mercury wastes:

- (a) Consisting of mercury or mercury compounds;
- (b) Containing mercury or mercury compounds; or
- (c) Contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds,

in a quantity above the relevant thresholds defined by the Conference of the Parties, in collaboration with the relevant bodies of the Basel Convention in a harmonized manner, that are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law or the Convention.

Although paragraph 2 of article 11 refers to “thresholds defined by the Conference of the Parties”, the Conference of the Parties decided in decision MC-3/5 that no threshold needed to be established for mercury waste falling under subparagraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b) of article 11, meaning substances consisting of or containing mercury or mercury compounds. It also decided that mercury-added products that are

disposed of, are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of, and the wastes listed in the tables attached to the decision, would be regarded as such waste. Accordingly, all of these wastes are covered by the Convention and are not subject to a determination of threshold levels.

Thresholds are currently being developed for mercury waste falling under paragraph 2 (c), meaning waste contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds. Waste contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds that are below the thresholds defined by the Conference of the Parties are not mercury waste for the purposes of article 11.

The measures outlined in paragraph 3 of article 11 are, briefly:

- To ensure that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner, taking into account the relevant Basel Convention guidelines<sup>29</sup> and requirements to be developed by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention;
- To ensure that mercury waste can only be recovered, recycled, reclaimed or directly reused for a use allowed under the Minamata Convention or for environmentally sound disposal;
- Not to transport mercury wastes across international boundaries, except for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal in conformity with article 11 of the Minamata Convention and the Basel Convention.

The steps the party may have taken in applying paragraph 3 of article 11 might include ensuring that any definition of hazardous waste under its domestic legislation is consistent with paragraph 2 of article 11; restricting the use of mercury that is available for direct re-use or that has been recovered, recycled or reclaimed from waste to uses allowed under the Convention; and restricting the transboundary transport of mercury waste.

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has no mercury waste in its territory and hence no need to implement the measures outlined in paragraph 3 of article 11, it would answer “no” and provide that explanation in *part E*, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so, including, if possible, how it has achieved a situation of “no mercury waste”.
- If the party has not taken the measures outlined in paragraph 3 of article 11, it would reply “no” and might wish to provide an explanation in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention* and/or *part E*, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.
- If the party has taken the measures outlined in paragraph 3 of article 11, it would reply “yes” and describe the measures taken, the date(s) on which the measures were taken, and the effectiveness of those measures.

**Question 11.2:** \*Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party’s territory?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know (*please explain*)

If yes, if the information is available, how much waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds has been subject to final disposal under the reporting period? Please specify the method of the final disposal operation/operations.

**NOTES:** Question 11.2 seeks the identification of facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds. It does not seek information on disposal of waste containing mercury or mercury compounds or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds.

In decision [MC-3/5](#), the Conference of the Parties decided that the waste listed in table 1 of the annex to that decision would be regarded as waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds.

<sup>29</sup> The Basel Convention technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds (UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.8/Rev.1, annex), available at <http://www.minamataconvention.org/Convention/Formsandguidance/tabid/5527/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

Parties may look for information on how to define “final disposal” and how they might find national facilities using techniques for final disposal in the Basel Convention technical guidelines, national laws or regulations, national policy and administrative statements, their Minamata Initial Assessment, or in an implementation plan developed pursuant to article 20 of the Minamata Convention. The Basel Convention technical guidelines, for example, describe physico-chemical treatment, using stabilization and solidification processes, to meet the acceptance criteria of disposal facilities. In relation to final disposal operations, the technical guidelines describe the methods for disposal in specially engineered landfills and disposal in permanent storage (underground facilities) together with the measures to be taken to prevent releases and methylation of stabilized compounds, prevent fire and conduct long-term monitoring.

Information on facilities for final disposal of mercury or mercury compounds could be found in reporting under national laws governing hazardous waste management and hazardous substance control, from the development of a Minamata Initial Assessment or in an implementation plan developed pursuant to article 20 of the Convention. It should be noted that the question seeks the identification of facilities.

#### **SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in its territory, it would reply “**yes**” and, if available, report on the number of such facilities, the amount (in metric tons) of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds that has been subject to final disposal for each year of the reporting period, as well as the method of such final disposal.

**NOTES:** If the final disposal involves several operations, the party should report the total amount of mercury waste disposed of and describe briefly the operations, without providing a breakdown of the amount associated with each operation.

- If the party does not have facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in its territory, it would reply “**no**”.
- If the party has not determined whether it has facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in its territory but is in the process of doing so (through the development of its Minamata Initial Assessment or implementation plan), the party would reply “**do not know**” and provide an explanation.

### **Article 12: Contaminated sites**

**Question 12.1:** Has the party endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory? (para. 1)

- Yes  
 No

Please elaborate.

**NOTES:** Contaminated sites can be active, where existing processes or practices continue to contribute to the contamination, or historical, where such processes or practices have stopped but the pollution remains. The cause of the contamination can vary from large industrial operations, such as chlor-alkali facilities, to smaller operations, such as artisanal and small-scale gold mining sites. Moreover, the sources of the contamination may be waste management activities, stack emissions, fugitive emissions and/or spills and emergency incidents.

The Conference of the Parties, at its third meeting, adopted the guidance on the management of contaminated sites.<sup>30</sup> The guidance notes that the term “contaminated site” is not specifically defined in the Convention text. Parties may have their own definition in their legislation.

In the guidance, a “contaminated site” refers to a site where there is a confirmed presence, caused by human activities, of mercury and mercury compounds at such level(s) as to be considered by a party as posing a significant risk to human health or the environment.

<sup>30</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.3/8/Rev.1, available at [www.minamataconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/forms-guidance/English/Guidance\\_Contaminated\\_Sites\\_EN.pdf](http://www.minamataconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/forms-guidance/English/Guidance_Contaminated_Sites_EN.pdf).

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has either developed a strategy for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory or initiated the development of such a strategy, the party would respond “**yes**,” and may wish to provide information such as:
  - The definition of “contaminated site” used by the party;
  - The status of strategy development, including either the date the strategy was finalized or the anticipated date of finalization;
  - Where the strategy is available online (if not online, either attach a copy of the strategy to the report or indicate where it can be accessed);
  - The status of implementation of any activities under the strategy for identifying, assessing, prioritizing, managing and, as appropriate, remediating contaminated sites.
- If the party has not endeavoured to develop such a strategy, it would reply “**no**” and provide information to clarify its position, including whether it has plans to develop a strategy and, if so, when the strategy will be completed.

**Article 13: Financial resources and mechanism**

**Question 13.1:** Has the party undertaken to provide, within its capabilities, resources in respect of those national activities that are intended to implement the Convention in accordance with its national policies, priorities, plans and programmes? (para. 1)

- Yes (*please specify*)
- No (*please specify why not*)

Please provide comments, if any.

**NOTES:** Paragraph 1 of article 13 relates to the party’s undertaking to provide resources for its national activities to implement the Convention.

Such resources may include domestic funding through relevant policies, development strategies and national budgets, and bilateral and multilateral funding, and the costs borne by the private sector in undertaking the required Convention obligations. Should a party decide to provide an assessment of the level of resources provided, the party may wish to include the resources provided in the development of policies and plans for implementation, as well as the direct costs of implementation. Further, in situations where resources may be provided at the subnational (e.g., state or provincial) level, these should be aggregated to provide information at the national (i.e., party) level.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has provided resources for national activities that are intended to implement the Convention, the party would reply “**yes**” and provide:
  - Information on the types of resources it has provided (e.g., financial, technical, capacity-building, technology transfer);
  - If possible, an estimate of the total financial support and other resources for each year of the reporting period.
- If the party has not provided resources, the party would reply “**no**” and might provide an explanation in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention* and an estimate of the date by which it anticipates providing resources for implementation.

**Question 13.2:** Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13? (para. 12)

(Please tick one box only)

- Yes (*please specify*)
- No (*please specify why not*)

Please provide comments, if any.

**NOTES:** The mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13 consists of the Global Environment Facility<sup>31</sup> and the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance.<sup>32</sup> The Specific International Programme was made operational by decision MC-1/6 of the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting. Paragraph 9 of article 13 invites all parties and others to provide financial resources to the programme, on a voluntary basis.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has contributed to the mechanism, it would reply “**yes**” and might specify:
  - The nature of the contribution for each year of the reporting period;
  - The amount (in United States dollars) for the Global Environment Facility and for the Specific International Programme.
- If the party has not contributed to the mechanism, it would reply “**no**” and provide information on the reasons it has not contributed and whether it intends to contribute in the future.
- The party may wish to provide additional comments in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention* and/or *part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.*

**Question 13.3:** Supplemental: Has the party provided financial resources to assist developing-country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels? (para. 3)

(Please tick one box only)

- Yes (please specify)
- No (please specify why not)

Please provide comments, if any.

**NOTES:** Paragraph 5 of article 13 established the mechanism comprising the Global Environment Facility trust fund and the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance. Further, paragraph 3 of article 13 encourages multilateral, regional and bilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, as well as capacity-building and technology transfer, on an urgent basis, to enhance and increase their activities on mercury in support of developing-country parties in the implementation of the Convention relating to financial resources, technical assistance and technology transfer.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has provided financial resources to assist developing-country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels other than the mechanism established in paragraph 5 of article 13, the party would reply “**yes**” and provide information such as:
  - The sources or channels through which the resources were provided;
  - Whether the activity supported was national, subregional or regional;
  - Whether the recipient was a party or a non-governmental organization;
  - The total amount of this assistance (in United States dollars) for each year of the reporting period, and whether these were new or additional financial resources.
- If the party has not provided financial resources to assist developing-country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels other than the mechanism established in paragraph 5 of article 13, the party would reply “**no**” and provide information to explain the reasons it has not provided resources and whether it intends to provide such resources in the future.

<sup>31</sup> See <https://minamataconvention.org/en/implementation/gef>.

<sup>32</sup> See <https://minamataconvention.org/en/implementation/specific-international-programme/third-round>.

- The party may wish to provide additional comments in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention*.

#### Article 14: Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer

**Question 14.1:** Has the party cooperated to provide capacity-building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention? (para. 1)

- Yes (*please specify*)
- No (*please specify*)

**NOTES:** Paragraph 1 of article 14 requires parties to cooperate to provide, within their respective capabilities, timely and appropriate capacity-building and technical assistance to developing-country parties, in particular parties that are least developed countries or small island developing States, and parties with economies in transition, to assist them in implementing their obligations under the Convention.

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has provided capacity-building or technical assistance to another party, the party would reply “**yes**” and provide information such as:
  - The years of the reporting period in which the capacity-building or technical assistance was given;
  - The name of the party receiving the assistance;
  - The type of capacity-building or technical assistance;
  - The total value of the capacity-building or technical assistance (in United States dollars), including in-kind contributions.
- If the party has not provided capacity-building or technical assistance to another party, it would reply “**no**” and provide information on the reasons it has not and whether it intends to provide such resources in the future.

**Question 14.2:** Supplemental: Has the party received capacity-building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14? (para. 1)

- Yes (*please specify*)
- No (*please specify*)

Please provide comments, if any.

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has received capacity-building or technical assistance from another party, the party would reply “**yes**” and provide information such as:
  - The years of the reporting period in which the capacity-building or technical assistance was given;
  - The name of the party, regional centre or inter-governmental organization providing the capacity-building or technical assistance;
  - The type of capacity-building or technical assistance;
  - The total value of the capacity-building or technical assistance (in United States dollars), including in-kind contributions.
- If the party has not received capacity-building or technical assistance from another party, the party would reply “**no**” and might provide information to clarify its situation, including whether or not it has sought capacity-building or technical assistance from another party.
- The party may wish to provide additional comments in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention* and/or *part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so*.



**Question 14.3:** Has the party promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of, and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies? (para. 3)

- Yes (*please specify*)
- No (*please specify why not*)
- Other (please provide information)

**NOTES:** Paragraph 3 of article 14 requires developed-country parties and other parties within their capabilities to promote and facilitate, supported by the private sector and other relevant stakeholders as appropriate, development, transfer and diffusion of, and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies to developing-country parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and parties with economies in transition, to strengthen their capacity to effectively implement the Convention.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of, and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies, the party would reply “**yes**” and provide information such as:
  - The technology, including, if information is available online, where it can be accessed (if relevant information is not available online, the party may wish to attach the available information);
  - The year of transfer or diffusion;
  - The channel of transfer and diffusion (e.g., through the secretariat; direct to another party; or through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels such as the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres, the Global Mercury Partnership, an inter-governmental organization such as UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO or UNITAR, or private sector to private sector).
- If the party has not promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of, and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies, the party would reply “**no**”, explain why it has not done so, and might specify whether it has a plan or estimated start date for undertaking these activities.
- If the party has developed a plan for the development, transfer and diffusion of, and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies but has not yet implemented the plan, the party would reply “**other**” and provide information on its plan and when it anticipates implementing it.

**Article 16: Health aspects**

**Question 16.1:** Have measures been taken to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 16?

- Yes
- No

Supplemental: If **yes**, describe the measures that have been taken.

**NOTES:** Paragraph 1 of article 16 encourages parties to:

- (a) Promote the development and implementation of strategies and programmes to identify and protect populations at risk, particularly vulnerable populations, and which may include adopting science-based health guidelines relating to the exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, setting targets for mercury exposure reduction, where appropriate, and public education, with the participation of public health and other involved sectors;
- (b) Promote the development and implementation of science-based educational and preventive programmes on occupational exposure to mercury and mercury compounds;

- (c) Promote appropriate health-care services for prevention, treatment and care for populations affected by the exposure to mercury or mercury compounds;
- (d) Establish and strengthen, as appropriate, the institutional and health professional capacities for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health risks related to the exposure to mercury and mercury compounds.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has taken measures to promote and facilitate access to information, increase awareness and provide education related to exposure to mercury as described in paragraph 1 of article 16, the party would reply “yes” and might wish to describe:
  - The measures it has taken;
  - The date(s) the measures were taken;
  - The outcome of the measures taken.
- If the party has not taken such measures, the party would reply “no” and might wish to provide comments, including a plan or estimated date for when it might expect to take such measures, in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention and/or part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.*

**Question 16.2:** Have any other measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16? (para. 1)

- Yes  
 No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.

**NOTES:** Paragraph 1 of article 16 encourages parties to:

- (a) Promote the development and implementation of strategies and programmes to identify and protect populations at risk, particularly vulnerable populations, and which may include adopting science-based health guidelines relating to the exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, setting targets for mercury exposure reduction, where appropriate, and public education, with the participation of public health and other involved sectors;
- (b) Promote the development and implementation of science-based educational and preventive programmes on occupational exposure to mercury and mercury compounds;
- (c) Promote appropriate health-care services for prevention, treatment and care for populations affected by the exposure to mercury or mercury compounds;
- (d) Establish and strengthen, as appropriate, the institutional and health professional capacities for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health risks related to the exposure to mercury and mercury compounds.

Further, a party that has notified the secretariat that it has artisanal and small-scale gold mining that is more than insignificant is required to develop a national action plan in accordance with annex C to the Convention. Paragraphs 1 (h) and 1 (i) of annex C require the development of health strategies for miners and their communities, and other vulnerable populations.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has taken measures additional to those reported under question 16.1, the party would reply “yes” and might wish to describe:
  - The measures it has taken;
  - The date(s) the measures were taken;
  - The outcome of the measures taken.

- If the party has not taken measures additional to those reported under question 16.1, the party would reply “**no**” and might wish to provide comments in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention* and/or *part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.*

### Article 17: Information exchange

**Question 17.1:** Has the party facilitated the exchange of information referred to in article 17, paragraph 1? (para. 1)

- Yes  
 No

Please provide more information, if any.

**NOTES:** Paragraph 1 of article 17 requires each party to facilitate the exchange of:

- (a) Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information;
- (b) Information on the reduction or elimination of the production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds;
- (c) Information on technically and economically viable alternatives to:
  - (i) Mercury-added products;
  - (ii) Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used;
  - (iii) Activities and processes that emit or release mercury or mercury compounds;
 including information on the health and environmental risks and economic and social costs and benefits of such alternatives;
- (d) Epidemiological information concerning health impacts associated with exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, in close cooperation with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, as appropriate.

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has facilitated the exchange of information referred to in paragraph 1 of article 17, the party would reply “**yes**” and, ideally, provide relevant information, including, for example, information on relevant online sources of information identified by name, URL and language(s), with a brief description of the information contained, if available.
- If the party has not facilitated the exchange of information referred to in paragraph 1 of article 17, the party would reply “**no**” and might wish to provide comments in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention* and/or *part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.*

### Article 18: Public information, awareness and education

**Question 18.1:** Have measures been taken to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in article 18, paragraph 1? (para. 1)

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please indicate the measures that have been taken and the effectiveness of those measures?

**NOTES:** Paragraph 1 of article 18 requires each party, within its capabilities, to promote and facilitate:

- (a) Provision to the public of available information on:
  - (i) The health and environmental effects of mercury and mercury compounds;
  - (ii) Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds;
  - (iii) The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17;

- (iv) The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19;
- (v) Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention;
- (b) Education, training and public awareness related to the effects of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and vulnerable populations, as appropriate.

Actions that a party might take in implementing this obligation may include but are not to be limited to:

- The establishment of national government and stakeholder consultation mechanisms;
- Engagement with the public, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in developing strategies and plans for managing mercury and mercury compounds;
- Development of pollutant release and transfer registers;
- Development and exchange of educational and public awareness materials at the national and international level;
- Development and implementation of education and training programmes at the national and international level;
- Making the inventories developed under articles 8 and 9 publicly available.

#### SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:

- If the party has taken measures to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in paragraph 1 of article 18, the party would reply “**yes**” and specify:
  - The issues on which it has taken measures to make information publicly available;
  - The date(s) on which the measures were taken;
  - The effectiveness of the measures taken.
- If the party has not taken measures to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in paragraph 1 of article 18, the party would reply “**no**” and might wish to provide comments, including a plan or estimated date for when it might expect to take such measures, in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention* and/or *part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.*

### Article 19: Research, development and monitoring

**Question 19.1:** Has the party undertaken any research, development and monitoring in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19? (para. 1)

- Yes  
 No

If **yes**, please describe these actions.

**NOTES:** Paragraph 1 of article 19 requires parties to endeavour to cooperate to develop and improve:

- (a) Inventories of use, consumption, and anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds;
- (b) Modelling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations and in environmental media, including biotic media such as fish, marine mammals, sea turtles and birds, as well as collaboration in the collection and exchange of relevant and appropriate samples;
- (c) Assessments of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, in addition to social, economic and cultural impacts, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations;

- (d) Harmonized methodologies for the activities undertaken under subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c);
- (e) Information on the environmental cycle, transport (including long-range transport and deposition), transformation and fate of mercury and mercury compounds in a range of ecosystems, taking appropriate account of the distinction between anthropogenic and natural emissions and releases of mercury and of remobilization of mercury from historic deposition;
- (f) Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products;
- (g) Information and research on the technical and economic availability of mercury-free products and processes and on best available techniques and best environmental practices to reduce and monitor emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

#### **SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- If the party has undertaken any research, development, and monitoring or cooperation activities in relation to the areas listed in paragraph 1 of article 19, the party would reply “**yes**” and, in relation to each of the areas on which it has undertaken such activities, provide information to describe the activities, which might include:
  - The year(s) when these activities were undertaken;
  - Whether the activities were taken in cooperation with another party;
  - Reference to any published material or reports resulting from the activities and, if information is available online, where it can be accessed (if the relevant information is not available online, the party may wish to attach it to the report).
- If the party has not undertaken any research, development, and monitoring or cooperation activities in relation to the subjects listed in paragraph 1 of article 19, the party would reply “**no**” and might wish to provide comments, including on any future plans or activities and the potential dates of those activities, in *part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention* and/or *part E, where parties may provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text should they choose to do so.*

#### **Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention**

Part C allows parties the opportunity to comment regarding possible challenges they face in meeting the obligations, provisions and objectives of the Convention.

#### **SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- The party may wish to include in this free text section any general information on possible challenges, as well as further explanations or clarifications in relation to any of the questions in part B.
- Further, if the party has relevant information that could assist other parties and the secretariat in understanding the challenges to the party’s implementation of the Convention and opportunities for improvement, it would include that information in this section.

#### **Supplemental: Part D: Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any**

Part D allows the party the opportunity to comment on the reporting format and possible improvements, if any, and if the party so wishes.

#### **SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- The party may wish to comment on the content or structure of the reporting format, share suggestions on ways to improve the format or share reflections on the use of the electronic reporting tool or any other aspect related to the reporting format.

**Part E: Additional comments on each of the articles in free text (at the option of the party)**

Part E allows the party the opportunity to comment on each of the articles in free text, if the party chooses to do so.

**SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR RESPONSE:**

- The party may wish to elaborate on any of its responses in part B as it relates to the articles, or to add information it considers relevant to be included for the submission of a complete and coherent national report.

**MC-5/14: First effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Acknowledging* the intersessional work done since the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to begin the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, according to the agreed framework, and pursuant to decision MC-4/11,

1. *Agrees* to consider the outcome of the first effectiveness evaluation of the Convention at its seventh meeting;
2. *Takes note* of the progress made by the Open-ended Scientific Group;
3. *Establishes* the Effectiveness Evaluation Group to work in accordance with its terms of reference as set out in annex I to this decision;
4. *Adopts* the indicators as set out in annex II to the present decision;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to continue supporting the effectiveness evaluation process.

**Annex I to decision MC-5/14****Terms of reference of the Effectiveness Evaluation Group****A. Mandate**

1. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group will be responsible for and oversee the development of the effectiveness evaluation report, as requested by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group will integrate the information and knowledge collected and synthesized during the effectiveness evaluation process into a final report to the Conference of the Parties and present recommendations for improvement, lessons learned and best practices to the Conference of the Parties.
2. The mandate of the Effectiveness Evaluation Group will conclude with the presentation of the final effectiveness evaluation report to the Conference of the Parties.

**B. Tasks**

3. In order to complete the final effectiveness evaluation report, the Effectiveness Evaluation Group will carry out the following activities:
  - (a) Oversee the effectiveness evaluation process for the finalization of the effectiveness evaluation report, including those plans and reports, as outlined in annex I to decision MC-4/11;
  - (b) Prepare the final effectiveness evaluation report as outlined in annex I to decision MC-4/11. In preparing the report, the Effectiveness Evaluation Group will also refer to the list of indicators, without prejudice to their final adoption by the Conference of the Parties. The reports and the data submitted by parties for the effectiveness evaluation process will be the main sources of information for the effectiveness evaluation, as appropriate. Compiled data with best comparability, representativeness and sustainability should be used to produce the final effectiveness evaluation report;
  - (c) Reflect on, consider and submit to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, the plans and reports provided for in annex I to decision MC-4/11, including parties' comments on such plans and reports. Data submitted by parties should be addressed in the reports, and the reports should explain when sources of data other than party-submitted data are used.

4. In carrying out the tasks mentioned in paragraph 3, the Effectiveness Evaluation Group may delegate work to the Open-ended Scientific Group, the secretariat and other groups in order to meet its obligations within allocated resources. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group will engage with the relevant groups and take into consideration their recommendations and input.

5. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group will invite the secretariat, the Open-ended Scientific Group and other relevant groups to work, as appropriate and based on direction received from the Conference of the Parties, on continuing to develop and implement the tasks needed to further the work of the effectiveness evaluation.

6. In addition to its final effectiveness evaluation report to the Conference of the Parties, the Effectiveness Evaluation Group will provide, and submit to the Conference of the Parties, an overview of lessons learned during the first effectiveness evaluation cycle for consideration in subsequent cycles, including recommendations regarding modifications to indicators, monitoring guidance, data sources, reports or the overall framework.

### **C. Membership**

7. The members of the Effectiveness Evaluation Group will be appointed on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, taking into account the need for gender balance and various types of expertise.

8. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group will consist of 25 participants from parties, comprising five representatives of parties from each of the five United Nations regions, nominated by the region.

9. The representatives nominated by the regions will have experience in the work carried out by the Effectiveness Evaluation Group.

10. Members of the Effectiveness Evaluation Group will serve objectively, provide their expertise in a neutral and impartial manner and act in the best interests of the Convention.

11. Members of the Effectiveness Evaluation Group will serve for the duration of one effectiveness evaluation cycle, as determined by the Conference of the Parties. A new group will be constituted in accordance with the effectiveness evaluation framework timeline of the next cycle.

12. If a member is unable to complete their term of office, the region nominating that member will nominate another person to complete the term.

### **D. Invited experts and observers**

13. The secretariat, in consultation with the Effectiveness Evaluation Group, will invite two internationally recognized United Nations experts in effectiveness evaluation as observers, with due consideration for the available expertise.

14. The co-chairs of the Open-ended Scientific Group and the Chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee will be invited to participate as observers.

15. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group will invite up to five participants from developed and developing countries as observers, drawing from civil society, Indigenous organizations, local community organizations, intergovernmental organizations, industry and the Global Mercury Partnership. The participation of observers will be balanced among the above-mentioned groups and by gender.

16. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group may invite additional observers on an ad hoc basis, within reasonable limits.

### **E. Officers**

17. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group will elect two co-chairs from among its members, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, to facilitate its work and meetings.

### **F. Procedural matters**

18. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group will apply the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, *mutatis mutandis*, unless otherwise provided for in the present terms of reference.

19. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group may establish such arrangements as are necessary to facilitate its work, in line with the present terms of reference, including establishing subgroups, within allocated resources. Any subgroups will be subject to the direction and oversight of the Effectiveness

Evaluation Group and will cease to exist once the assigned task has been completed. The subgroups will carry out their work electronically where possible.

20. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group will seek to reach agreement by consensus. Should the members fail to reach consensus, the range of their views will be reflected in the relevant report to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties.

### G. Secretariat

21. The secretariat will provide administrative, logistical, programmatic and substantive support for the meetings and work of the Effectiveness Evaluation Group, with the assistance of services as necessary, subject to available resources.

### H. Meetings

22. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group will work online and will hold up to two face-to-face meetings as needed, within allocated resources, to review the information available for the evaluation cycle and to develop a report of its findings for the Conference of the Parties. The frequency of face-to-face Effectiveness Evaluation Group meetings may be amended as necessary based on the decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

23. Draft documents to be transmitted to the Conference of the Parties will be opened for comments from parties. Draft documents will be finalized by the Effectiveness Evaluation Group at least four months before the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### I. Language of meetings

24. The working language of the Effectiveness Evaluation Group will be English.

### J. Budget

25. Financial support for travel and a daily subsistence allowance should, subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties, be made available to Effectiveness Evaluation Group members and invited observers for participation in meetings of the Group, in accordance with United Nations rules and practices.

## Annex II to decision MC-5/14

### Indicators to support the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention

#	Indicator	Relevant article of the Convention	Possible sources of information for measuring progress against the indicator	Notes
1	Levels and trends of mercury and mercury compounds in the environment and in humans due to anthropogenic emissions and releases	Article 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports and other information provided by the Open-ended Scientific Group</li> </ul>	As the analysis of monitoring data progresses, the Open-ended Scientific Group may further elaborate on this indicator (for example, by proposing subindicators).
2	Total amount of mercury mined from primary mercury mines	Article 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>Minamata Initial Assessments</li> </ul>	
3	Number of parties <sup>a</sup> that have endeavoured to identify, within their territories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons</li> <li>Sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year</li> </ol>	Article 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	



#	Indicator	Relevant article of the Convention	Possible sources of information for measuring progress against the indicator	Notes
4	Number of parties, having determined that they have excess mercury, that have taken the measures called for in article 3, paragraph 5 (b), and the amount of mercury disposed of through such measures	Article 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	
5	Number of parties that have exported or imported mercury in accordance with the procedures established under article 3	Article 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>• Forms pursuant to article 3</li> <li>• Reports developed under the Convention</li> </ul>	Consideration of this indicator during the evaluation will take into account the fact that trade is permitted from sources and for uses allowed under the Convention.
6	Estimated global amount, in metric tons per year, of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mercury traded in accordance with the Convention</li> <li>Mercury supply</li> <li>Mercury used in products and processes</li> </ol>	Article 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>• Forms pursuant to article 3 and article 30, para. 4</li> <li>• Reports developed under the Convention</li> </ul>	<p>Consideration of this indicator during the evaluation will take into account the fact that trade is permitted from sources and for uses allowed under the Convention.</p> <p>Additional sources of information will likely be necessary to accurately measure progress against this indicator.</p>
7	Number of parties that have taken appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, export or import of the mercury-added products listed in part I of annex A after the phase-out date specified for those products	Article 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	Consideration of this indicator during the evaluation will take into account the fact that parties may have different measures in place to not allow the manufacture, export and import of such products, and that some parties have exemptions in place.
8	Number of parties that have implemented two or more of the measures listed in subparas. (i)–(ix) of part II of annex A	Article 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	Consideration of this indicator during the evaluation will take into account the fact that decision MC-3/2 encourages parties to take more than the two required measures to phase down dental amalgam.
9	Number of parties that exclude or do not allow: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners</li> <li>The use of dental amalgam for the treatment of deciduous teeth in patients under 15 years of age and of pregnant and breastfeeding women</li> </ol>	Article 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	<p>The amended annex A, in decision MC-4/3, comes into force for parties as set out in article 27.</p> <p>This indicator will be relevant once the amendment is in force.</p>
10	For each process listed in part I of annex B: number of parties that have the process within their territories and have measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds after the process phase-out date	Article 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	Consideration of this indicator during the evaluation will take into account the fact that there may be parties that have measures in place even though they do not use the process in question, and that some parties have exemptions in place.

#	Indicator	Relevant article of the Convention	Possible sources of information for measuring progress against the indicator	Notes
11	For each process listed in part II of annex B: number of parties that have the process within their territories and have measures in place to restrict the use of mercury and mercury compounds in accordance with the provisions set out in annex B, part II	Article 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	Consideration of this indicator during the evaluation will take into account the fact that there may be parties that have measures in place even though they do not use the process in question.
12	Total amount of mercury used globally in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, in metric tons per year	Article 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>• National action plans and reviews pursuant to article 7</li> </ul>	
13	Number of parties with artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within their territories, where mercury amalgamation is used to extract gold from ore, that have taken steps to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, such mining and processing	Article 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>• Notifications, national action plans and reviews pursuant to article 7</li> </ul>	
14	Number of parties having determined that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within their territories is more than insignificant that have: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notified the secretariat</li> <li>Submitted a national action plan in accordance with annex C</li> <li>Provided a review of the progress made in meeting their obligations under article 7 and included such reviews in reports submitted pursuant to article 21</li> </ol>	Article 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>• Notifications, national action plans and reviews pursuant to article 7</li> </ul>	
15	Number of parties that have: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified relevant sources of emissions</li> <li>Established and maintained an inventory of emissions</li> <li>Put in place one or more control measures from among those indicated in para. 5 of article 8 for existing sources of emissions</li> <li>Required best available techniques and best environmental practices or emission limit values consistent with the application of best available techniques for new sources of emissions</li> <li>A national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions and expected targets, goals and outcomes</li> </ol>	Article 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>• National inventories</li> </ul>	

#	Indicator	Relevant article of the Convention	Possible sources of information for measuring progress against the indicator	Notes
16	Total amount of mercury emitted globally, in metric tons per year, from each point source category identified in annex D, based on parties' inventories of emissions	Article 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>• National inventories</li> </ul>	
17	Number of parties that have: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified relevant sources of releases</li> <li>Established and maintained an inventory of releases</li> <li>Put in place one or more control measures from among those indicated in para. 5 of article 9</li> <li>A national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control releases and its expected targets, goals and outcomes</li> </ol>	Article 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>• National inventories</li> </ul>	
18	Total amount of mercury released globally, in metric tons per year, based on parties' inventories of releases from relevant sources	Article 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>• National inventories</li> </ul>	
19	Number of parties that have taken measures to ensure that interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner	Article 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	Only parties that have mercury to store on an interim basis would have to take such measures.
20	Amount of waste consisting of mercury and mercury compounds subject to final disposal	Article 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>• Reports developed under the Convention</li> </ul>	
21	Number of parties that utilize facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds	Article 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	<p>Consideration of this indicator during the evaluation will take into account the fact that parties with significant quantities of such waste require access to final disposal facilities but not all parties require their own disposal facility.</p> <p>The Convention allows mercury waste to be transported across national boundaries for environmentally sound disposal.</p>
22	Number of parties that have implemented measures to meet the requirements of para. 3 of article 11	Article 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	
23	Number of parties that have endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in their territories	Article 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	

#	Indicator	Relevant article of the Convention	Possible sources of information for measuring progress against the indicator	Notes
24	Number of parties that have: (a) Mobilized national resources for implementing the Convention within the reporting period (b) Contributed to the financial mechanism referred to in article 13, para. 5 (c) Received resources from the Global Environment Facility (d) Received resources from the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance	Article 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>• Reports of the Global Environment Facility</li> <li>• Reports of the Specific International Programme</li> </ul>	
25	Amount of financial resources provided by: (a) Global Environment Facility (b) Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance (c) Multilateral, regional and bilateral support	Article 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> <li>• Reports of the Global Environment Facility</li> <li>• Reports of the Specific International Programme</li> </ul>	Resources can be understood to mean financial resources, co-financing resources, or in-kind resources.
26	Number of parties that have: (a) Cooperated in providing capacity-building or technical assistance to another party pursuant to article 14 (b) Received capacity-building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14 (c) Promoted or facilitated technology development, transfer, diffusion or access	Article 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	
27	Number of parties that have taken measures to provide information to the public on the effects of exposure to mercury	Article 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	
28	Number of parties that have developed and implemented strategies and programmes to protect human health from the exposure to mercury or mercury compounds	Article 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports pursuant to article 21</li> </ul>	
29	Mercury levels in vulnerable human populations	Article 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports and other information provided by the Open-ended Scientific Group</li> </ul>	As the analysis of monitoring data progresses, the Open-ended Scientific Group may further elaborate on this indicator (for example, by proposing sub-indicators). The monitoring guidance, as contained in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/12, may also support considerations regarding this indicator.
30	Number of parties with designated national focal points	Article 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notifications by parties</li> </ul>	

#	Indicator	Relevant article of the Convention	Possible sources of information for measuring progress against the indicator	Notes
31	Number of parties that have facilitated the exchange of information related to mercury	Article 17	• Reports pursuant to article 21	
32	Number of parties that have promoted and facilitated public information, awareness and education related to mercury	Article 18	• Reports pursuant to article 21	
33	Number of parties that have endeavoured to cooperate in undertaking research, development and monitoring	Article 19	• Reports pursuant to article 21	Cooperation to undertake research, development and monitoring can be participation in international, regional or bilateral efforts.
34	Number of parties that have submitted national reports	Article 21	• Secretariat's report based on the information received pursuant to article 21	
35	Number of national reports received that were: (a) Complete (b) Submitted on time	Article 21	• Secretariat's report based on the information received pursuant to article 21	
36	Number of parties that have identified challenges in: (a) Preparing their national reports (b) Implementing the Convention	Article 21	• Reports pursuant to article 21	

<sup>a</sup> In addition to the number of parties, it is understood that the proportion of parties will also be relevant for some indicators.

## MC-5/15: Gender action plan

### *The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* that gender equality and gender mainstreaming are vital to global sustainable development efforts and have been recognized by various international agreements and policy instruments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/219, which calls on Member States to ensure the full and equal participation of women in decision-making and in the formal economy, and encourages Member States and United Nations system agencies to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes,

*Recalling also* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/17, entitled "Promoting gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance", which invites Member States to prioritize the implementation of gender policies and action plans developed under the multilateral environmental agreements to which they are a party,

1. *Welcomes* the gender action plan of the Minamata Convention on Mercury;<sup>1</sup>
2. *Invites* parties to carry out activities to implement the gender action plan during the biennium 2024–2025,<sup>2</sup> and to share with the secretariat their related experiences and good practices;
3. *Also invites* parties to provide comments, as appropriate, on possible activities to be carried out by the secretariat, parties and other stakeholders during the biennium 2026–2027;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to carry out activities during the biennium 2024–2025,<sup>3</sup> subject to the availability of resources, to implement the gender action plan;

<sup>1</sup> The gender action plan of the Minamata Convention on Mercury is set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/10, as reissued for technical reasons on 25 October 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Suggested activities are set out in paragraph 2 of annex I to document UNEP/MC/COP.5/18.

<sup>3</sup> Suggested activities are set out in paragraph 1 of annex I to document UNEP/MC/COP.5/18.

5. *Invites* parties to provide, within the scope of their respective capabilities, financial resources to support the implementation of the plan;
6. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, in the implementation of the gender action plan, to continue collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant partners in the field of gender mainstreaming;
7. *Also requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to review implementation of the gender action plan and to propose possible activities to be carried out by the secretariat, parties and other stakeholders during the biennium 2026–2027, as appropriate, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

## **MC-5/16: Knowledge management**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the importance of information and communication technologies as enablers of growth and acknowledges their transformative power in promoting inclusive participation, collaboration, knowledge exchange and innovation among diverse stakeholders, with the ultimate goal of driving progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling also* that Environment Assembly resolution 4/23 seeks to develop a long-term data strategy in consultation with secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and take into account their appropriate, credible and quality-assured data and information resources,

*Welcoming* the progress made by the secretariat in the area of knowledge management and digitalization as a cross-cutting element of the programme of work,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the digital strategy for the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury as outlined in annex I to document UNEP/MC/COP.5/19 to guide the work of the secretariat in the upcoming years in leveraging technology and managing knowledge effectively to support the implementation of the Convention;
2. *Agrees* that implementation of the digital strategy should begin, in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Convention for the biennium 2024–2025, and requests the secretariat to prioritize relevant activities to implement the strategy in the programmes of work and budgets for the following bienniums;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to continue collaborating with the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and other partners, including the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) initiative, in knowledge management, digitalization and information exchange.

## **MC-5/17: Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Reaffirming* the objective of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds,

*Recognizing* that mercury pollution impacts ecosystems as a direct driver and underlying cause of global loss of biodiversity, and that parties, through the implementation of the Convention, can significantly contribute to global efforts to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity,

*Recognizing* the opportunities for the implementation of the Convention and that of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to be mutually supportive and to contribute to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and the goals and vision of the Framework,

*Recognizing* the value of working across sectors and scales to generate co-benefits for the Convention and broader environmental goals,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in decision 15/4;
2. *Takes note* of the report prepared by the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on how the Minamata Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework can be

implemented in a mutually supportive manner<sup>1</sup> and welcomes the efforts undertaken by the secretariat to give effect to paragraphs 6 and 7 of decision MC-4/12;<sup>2</sup>

3. *Welcomes* the “Bern meetings” initiated by Switzerland to support synergies between relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the Minamata Convention;

4. *Encourages* parties, through their operational focal points of the Global Environment Facility, to integrate mercury action into projects developed under the biodiversity focal area and integrated programmes of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund, as well as through the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;

5. *Encourages* parties, and invites other Governments and local and subnational governments, as well as relevant organizations and stakeholders, as appropriate, to:

(a) Promote research on the impacts of mercury on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services;

(b) Reflect national mercury reduction and control targets in their revised or updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(c) Share the experience gained to promote coordination and integration of biodiversity- and mercury-related priorities through policy development and implementation, including lessons learned and challenges faced;

(d) Disseminate information on actions that can generate co-benefits for the Minamata Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

6. *Notes* the absence in the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of indicators regarding the overall risk from highly hazardous chemicals, and invites the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider additional indicators, under target 7, to cover highly hazardous chemicals and mercury;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to continue supporting the relevant processes to improve coherence among multilateral environmental agreements, including the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions;

8. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to support parties and other stakeholders in sharing their experience, as per paragraph 5 above, and to compile and synthesize the information gathered and prepare a draft road map, including possible actions and indicators, to support parties in demonstrating and maximizing the co-benefits arising from the implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

## **MC-5/18: Enhanced international cooperation and coordination**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* subparagraph 5 (b) of article 23 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and paragraph 2 of article 24 of the Convention, which state that the Conference of the Parties and the secretariat shall cooperate with relevant international organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, particularly in the chemicals and waste cluster,

*Recalling also* subparagraph 2 (a) of article 16, which requires the Conference, in considering health-related issues or activities, to consult and collaborate with the World Health Organization,

1. *Welcomes* the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements” on the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

2. *Also welcomes* the opportunity for the secretariat to become an observer at meetings of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences, and requests the secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

3. *Further welcomes* the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and of the Bonn Declaration by the International Conference

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/27.

<sup>2</sup> As described in document UNEP/MC/COP.5/20.

on Chemicals Management at its fifth session, and calls on parties to take into account the strategic objectives and targets of the framework in their actions to implement the Minamata Convention;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to ensure mutual support for the implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and to develop a proposal for activities providing such mutual support, to be included in the programme of work to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting;

5. *Also requests* the secretariat to continue and to enhance further cooperation and coordination with the World Health Organization to support parties' efforts to implement health-related aspects of the Convention, including through the use of relevant World Health Organization guidance;

6. *Further requests* the secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, as appropriate.

### **MC-5/19: Cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Minamata Convention and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recognizing* that the sharing of services within a stable framework will enhance cooperation and coordination based on experience and proximity and can foster the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants without undermining the autonomy of the secretariats or the accountability of their executive heads,

*Recalling* decisions MC-3/11 and MC-4/9, on cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,

1. *Takes note* of the joint report on cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,<sup>1</sup> and the outline of cooperation activities planned, including for the sharing and purchase of relevant services, between the two secretariats for the biennium 2024–2025;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of continued cooperation on programmatic synergies, of the use of the task force between the two secretariats and the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme, and of the possibility for the secretariat of the Minamata Convention to provide secretariat support to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on a cost recovery basis, in accordance with the programme of work and budget of the conventions for each biennium;

3. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions regarding the training of potential chairs and negotiators for meetings of bodies, and requests the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, subject to the availability of resources, to continue contributing to the implementation of such training;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue, with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and under the overall steering of the task force, inter-secretariat working groups, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, scientific and technical assistance matters, in accordance with the programme of work and budget, and to explore ways to further strengthen cooperation and coordination with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(b) To continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programme of work and budget for each biennium;

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/28, annex I.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.



(c) To report on the implementation of the present decision, including on a stable framework for cooperation and for the sharing of services, providing an outline of the cooperation activities planned under such a framework for the biennium 2026–2027, for the consideration of and, as necessary, further guidance by, the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

## **MC-5/20: Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2024–2025**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions MC-4/2 and MC-4/13 on the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023,

*Welcoming* the annual contribution by Switzerland, the host country of the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, of 1 million Swiss francs, apportioned 60 per cent to the general trust fund and 40 per cent to the special trust fund, to be prioritized for the purpose of supporting the participation of representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties,

*Taking note* of the contributions paid to the general trust fund by parties,

*Noting* that the Convention's full working capital reserve in the general trust fund was established in 2018, and reaffirming that the working capital reserve shall be maintained at the level of 15 per cent of the annual budget,

*Recognizing with appreciation* the contributions and pledges made by Australia, Canada, Japan, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland to the special trust fund in the biennium 2022–2023,

*Recognizing also with appreciation* the contributions and pledges made by Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America to the Specific Trust Fund to support activities under the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance for the fourth round of applications,

*Recognizing further with appreciation* the contribution of the Government of Italy to provide a Junior Professional Officer for three years, the third year on a cost-sharing basis, until October 2024,

### **I**

#### **General trust fund of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

1. *Takes note* of the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2024–2025;<sup>1</sup> the information on financial matters, including the report on expenditures<sup>2</sup> and the budget activity fact sheets;<sup>3</sup> and the reports provided by the secretariat on progress in implementing the 2022–2023 work programme<sup>4</sup> and on international cooperation and coordination;<sup>5</sup>
2. *Approves* the budget for the general trust fund for the biennium 2024–2025 of 8,401,554 United States dollars;
3. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for 2024–2025 as set out in table 2 of the present decision and authorizes the Executive Secretary, consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to adjust the scale to include all parties for which the Convention is in force by 1 January 2024;
4. *Recalls* that contributions to the general trust fund are due by 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted and at the latest by 31 December of that year, and requests parties to pay their contributions as soon as possible to enable the secretariat to carry out its work;
5. *Invites* parties to make every effort to pay any outstanding contributions as soon as possible and requests the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on the progress achieved owing to the efforts made by parties;

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/23.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/35.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/36.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/34.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/21.

## II

### Special trust fund of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

6. *Takes note* of the report provided by the Executive Secretary on the activities and expenditures for 2022–2023 through the special trust fund as contained in the information on financial matters,<sup>6</sup> as well as the reports provided by the secretariat on progress in implementing the 2022–2023 work programme<sup>7</sup> and on international cooperation and coordination;<sup>8</sup>

7. *Also takes note* of the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2024–2025,<sup>9</sup> as well as the additional information on financial matters<sup>10</sup> and the budget activity fact sheets;<sup>11</sup>

8. *Agrees* to the estimates for the special trust fund for the biennium 2024–2025 of 4,833,010 United States dollars;

9. *Notes* that implementation of the planned activities is subject to the availability of resources contributed to the special trust fund;

10. *Requests* parties to the Convention, and invites non-parties to the Convention and others in a position to do so, to contribute to the special trust fund;

11. *Invites* parties and non-parties to the Convention and others in a position to do so to contribute to the special trust fund to support the participation of representatives of parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

## III

### Specific Trust Fund for the Minamata Convention on Mercury

12. *Takes note* of the overall report on the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance and the Specific Trust Fund established for those activities;<sup>12</sup>

13. *Invites* parties and non-parties to the Convention and others in a position to do so to contribute to the Specific Trust Fund to support capacity-building and technical assistance activities in accordance with article 13 of the Convention;

14. *Invites* parties and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide an in-kind contribution, in the form of a secondment or a Junior Professional Officer, to support the operation of the Specific International Programme;

## IV

### Preparations for the biennium 2026–2027

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a budget for the biennium 2026–2027 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, in 2025, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for that biennium in a programmatic format and broken down by budget activity, with each activity to be supported by a budget activity fact sheet;

16. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in preparing the budget and programme of work for the biennium 2026–2027, to present two scenarios:

(a) A scenario maintaining the operational budget at the 2024–2025 level in nominal terms;

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<sup>6</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/35.

<sup>7</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/34.

<sup>8</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/21.

<sup>9</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/23.

<sup>10</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/35.

<sup>11</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/36.

<sup>12</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.5/11.

(b) A scenario reflecting the changes required to the above-mentioned scenario to meet the projected needs and the costs or savings related thereto, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2024–2025 level in nominal terms;

17. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the budget proposals are realistic and represent the agreed priorities of all parties to help ensure a sustainable and stable fund and cash balance, including contributions received;

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in keeping with paragraph 8 of rule 5 of the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat of the Convention, to acknowledge promptly the receipt of all pledges and contributions and inform the parties thereof by publishing on the Convention website up-to-date information on the status of pledges and payments of contributions, and to provide detailed, up-to-date information on the actual income and expenses of the general trust fund and the special trust fund;

19. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to provide, in line with paragraph 1 of rule 3 of the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, its subsidiary bodies and the secretariat of the Convention, detailed, actual information on income and expenditures for each year of the biennium 2022–2023 and for 2024 and estimates of actual expenditures for 2025.

Table 1  
**Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2024–2025**  
 (United States dollars)

<i>Budget 2024–2025</i>	<i>General trust fund</i>			<i>Special trust fund</i>			
	<b>Activity</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>A. Conferences and meetings</b>							
<b>1. Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties</b>							
1.1	Sixth meeting		1 142 000	1 142 000		425 000	425 000
1.2	Regional preparatory meetings					420 000	420 000
<b>1. Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties</b>							
		–	<b>1 142 000</b>	<b>1 142 000</b>	–	<b>845 000</b>	<b>845 000</b>
<b>2. Bureau of the Conference of the Parties</b>							
2.1.	Meetings of the Bureau		26 000	26 000			
<b>2. Bureau of the Conference of the Parties</b>							
		–	<b>26 000</b>	<b>26 000</b>	–	–	–
<b>3. Implementation and Compliance Committee</b>							
3.1.	Meetings of the Committee		45 000	45 000			
<b>3. Implementation and Compliance Committee</b>							
		–	<b>45 000</b>	<b>45 000</b>	–	–	–
<b>Total (A)</b>		–	<b>1 213 000</b>	<b>1 213 000</b>	–	<b>845 000</b>	<b>845 000</b>
<b>B. Capacity-building and technical assistance</b>							
<b>4. Capacity-building and technical assistance programme of the Minamata Convention</b>							
4.1	Tools, methodologies, and delivery modalities				160 000	160 000	320 000
4.2	Specific capacity development activities				270 000	260 000	530 000
4.2	Capacity-building activities on request				160 000	130 000	290 000
4.4.	Cross-cutting activities				180 000	200 000	380 000
<b>4. Capacity-building and technical assistance programme of the Minamata Convention</b>							
		–	–	–	<b>770 000</b>	<b>750 000</b>	<b>1 520 000</b>
<b>Total (B)</b>		–	–	–	<b>770 000</b>	<b>750 000</b>	<b>1 520 000</b>
<b>C. Scientific and technical activities</b>							
<b>5. Scientific support to the parties to the Minamata Convention</b>							
5.1.	Improvement in methods for mercury inventories				50 000	50 000	100 000
5.2.	Information exchange on modelling and monitoring				50 000	50 000	100 000
5.3.	Assessment of the health, environmental and socioeconomic impact of mercury				75 000	75 000	150 000
5.4.	Information exchange in mercury reduction technologies				50 000	50 000	100 000
5.5.	Cross-cutting scientific and technical activities				570 000	400 000	970 000
<b>5. Scientific support to the parties to the Minamata Convention</b>							
		–	–	–	<b>795 000</b>	<b>625 000</b>	<b>1 420 000</b>

<i>Budget 2024–2025</i>						
<i>Activity</i>	<i>General trust fund</i>			<i>Special trust fund</i>		
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>6. Effectiveness evaluation</b>						
6.1. Effectiveness Evaluation Group	70 000	4 500	74 500		65 000	65 000
6.2. Trade, supply and demand report	7 000		7 000			
6.3. Other preparatory work and reports to support the effectiveness evaluation	150 000		150 000			
<b>6. Effectiveness evaluation</b>	<b>227 000</b>	<b>4 500</b>	<b>231 500</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>65 000</b>	<b>65 000</b>
<b>7. National reporting under the Minamata Convention</b>						
7.1. Process and analyse national reports	25 000	25 000	50 000			
7.2. Ongoing management of information contained in national reports	10 000	20 000	30 000			
7.3. Enhance parties' capacity for national reporting	20 000	25 000	45 000			
<b>7. National reporting under the Minamata Convention</b>	<b>55 000</b>	<b>70 000</b>	<b>125 000</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total (C)</b>	<b>282 000</b>	<b>74 500</b>	<b>356 500</b>	<b>795 000</b>	<b>690 000</b>	<b>1 485 000</b>
<b>D. Knowledge and information management and outreach</b>						
<b>8. Publications</b>						
8.1. Publications	25 000	25 000	50 000	12 500	12 500	25 000
<b>8. Publications</b>	<b>25 000</b>	<b>25 000</b>	<b>50 000</b>	<b>12 500</b>	<b>12 500</b>	<b>25 000</b>
<b>9. Communication, outreach and public awareness</b>						
9.1. Communication, outreach and public awareness	34 000	42 000	76 000			
<b>9. Communication, outreach and public awareness</b>	<b>34 000</b>	<b>42 000</b>	<b>76 000</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>10. Digital presence</b>						
10.1. Digital strategy	42 500	27 500	70 000	100 000	85 000	185 000
<b>10. Digital presence</b>	<b>42 500</b>	<b>27 500</b>	<b>70 000</b>	<b>100 000</b>	<b>85 000</b>	<b>185 000</b>
<b>Total (D)</b>	<b>101 500</b>	<b>94 500</b>	<b>196 000</b>	<b>112 500</b>	<b>97 500</b>	<b>210 000</b>
<b>E. Overall management</b>						
<b>11. Executive direction and management</b>						
11.1. Overall management	2 368 329	2 439 079	4 807 408			
11.2. Staff travel	86 500	103 000	189 500			
<b>11. Executive direction and management</b>	<b>2 454 829</b>	<b>2 542 079</b>	<b>4 996 908</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>12. International cooperation and coordination</b>						
12.1. Cooperation on the broader sustainable development and environment agenda				30 000	70 000	100 000
12.2. Cooperation within the chemicals and waste cluster				–	–	–
12.3. Other cooperation and coordination				–	–	–
<b>12. International cooperation and coordination</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>70 000</b>	<b>100 000</b>
<b>13. Financial resources and mechanism</b>						
13.1. Financial resources				24 000		24 000

Activity	General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2024	2025	Total	2024	2025	Total
13.2. Financial mechanism – Global Environment Facility				20 000		20 000
13.3. Financial mechanism – Specific International Programme				–		–
<b>13. Financial resources and mechanism</b>	–	–	–	<b>44 000</b>	–	<b>44 000</b>
<b>Total (E)</b>	<b>2 454 829</b>	<b>2 542 079</b>	<b>4 996 908</b>	<b>74 000</b>	<b>70 000</b>	<b>144 000</b>
<b>F. Legal and policy activities</b>						
<b>14. Legal and policy activities</b>						
14.1. Work programme of the Implementation and Compliance Committee						
14.2. Legal activities						
14.3. National legislation, trade, and enforcement						
14.4. Gender				43 000	30 000	73 000
<b>14. Legal and policy activities</b>	–	–	–	<b>43 000</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>73 000</b>
<b>Total (F)</b>	–	–	–	<b>43 000</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>73 000</b>
<b>G. Office maintenance and services</b>						
<b>15. Office maintenance and services</b>						
15.1. Office maintenance and services	165 000	165 866	330 866			
<b>15. Office maintenance and services</b>	<b>165 000</b>	<b>165 866</b>	<b>330 866</b>	–	–	–
<b>16. Information technology services</b>						
16.1. Information technology services	60 500	60 500	121 000			
<b>16. Information technology services</b>	<b>60 500</b>	<b>60 500</b>	<b>121 000</b>	–	–	–
<b>Total (G)</b>	<b>225 500</b>	<b>226 366</b>	<b>451 866</b>	–	–	–
<b>Resources required for all activities</b>						
<b>Total (A to G), excluding programme support costs</b>	<b>3 063 829</b>	<b>4 150 445</b>	<b>7 214 274</b>	<b>1 794 500</b>	<b>2 482 500</b>	<b>4 277 000</b>
Programme support costs	398 298	539 558	937 856	233 285	322 725	556 010
<b>Grand total (A to G), including programme support costs</b>	<b>3 462 127</b>	<b>4 690 003</b>	<b>8 152 130</b>	<b>2 027 785</b>	<b>2 805 225</b>	<b>4 833 010</b>
<b>P-3 Programme Officer (effectiveness/national reporting) including programme support costs</b>		<b>249 424</b>	<b>249 424</b>			
<b>Grand total including P-3 Programme Officer (effectiveness/national reporting)</b>	<b>3 462 127</b>	<b>4 939 427</b>	<b>8 401 554</b>	<b>2 027 785</b>	<b>2 805 225</b>	<b>4 833 010</b>

<sup>a</sup> Should the in-person meeting of the Effectiveness Evaluation Group not take place prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, up to two in-person meetings will be funded, as called for by the Group's terms of reference, from the general trust fund in the biennium 2026–2027.

Table 2  
**Overview of the indicative scale of assessment and contributions to the general trust fund for the biennium 2024–2025**  
 (United States dollars)

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Minamata scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Contributions for 2024</i>	<i>Contributions for 2025</i>	<i>Total contributions to the general trust fund for 2024–2025</i>	
<b>African States (41)</b>						
1	Algeria	0.109	0.1107	3 149	4 804	7 954
2	Benin	0.005	0.0100	284	434	718
3	Botswana	0.015	0.0152	433	661	1 095
4	Burkina Faso	0.004	0.0100	284	434	718
5	Burundi	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
6	Cameroon	0.013	0.0132	376	573	949
7	Central African Republic	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
8	Chad	0.003	0.0100	284	434	718
9	Comoros	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
10	Congo	0.005	0.0100	284	434	718
11	Côte d'Ivoire	0.022	0.0223	636	970	1 605
12	Djibouti	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
13	Equatorial Guinea	0.012	0.0122	347	529	876
14	Eritrea	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
15	Eswatini	0.002	0.0100	284	434	718
16	Gabon	0.013	0.0132	376	573	949
17	Gambia	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
18	Ghana	0.024	0.0244	693	1 058	1 751
19	Guinea	0.003	0.0100	284	434	718
20	Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
21	Kenya	0.03	0.0305	867	1 322	2 189
22	Lesotho	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
23	Madagascar	0.004	0.0100	284	434	718
24	Malawi	0.002	0.0100	284	434	718
25	Mali	0.005	0.0100	284	434	718
26	Mauritania	0.002	0.0100	284	434	718
27	Mauritius	0.019	0.0193	549	837	1 386
28	Namibia	0.009	0.0100	284	434	718
29	Niger	0.003	0.0100	284	434	718
30	Nigeria	0.182	0.1849	5 259	8 022	13 280
31	Rwanda	0.003	0.0100	284	434	718
32	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
33	Senegal	0.007	0.0100	284	434	718
34	Seychelles	0.002	0.0100	284	434	718
35	Sierra Leone	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Minamata scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Contributions for 2024</i>	<i>Contributions for 2025</i>	<i>Total contributions to the general trust fund for 2024–2025</i>	
36	South Africa	0.244	0.2478	7 050	10 754	17 804
37	Togo	0.002	0.0100	284	434	718
38	Uganda	0.01	0.0102	289	441	730
39	United Republic of Tanzania	0.01	0.0102	289	441	730
40	Zambia	0.008	0.0100	284	434	718
41	Zimbabwe	0.007	0.0100	284	434	718
<b>Asia-Pacific States (36)</b>						
42	Afghanistan	0.006	0.0100	284	434	718
43	Bahrain	0.054	0.0549	1 560	2 380	3 940
44	Bangladesh	0.01	0.0102	289	441	730
45	Cambodia	0.007	0.0100	284	434	718
46	China	15.254	15.4942	440 750	672 314	1 113 064
47	Cyprus	0.036	0.0366	1 040	1 587	2 627
48	India	1.044	1.0604	30 165	46 014	76 179
49	Indonesia	0.549	0.5576	15 863	24 197	40 060
50	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.371	0.3768	10 720	16 352	27 071
51	Iraq	0.128	0.1300	3 698	5 642	9 340
52	Japan	8.033	8.1595	232 106	354 051	586 157
53	Jordan	0.022	0.0223	636	970	1 605
54	Kiribati	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
55	Kuwait	0.234	0.2377	6 761	10 313	17 075
56	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.007	0.0100	284	434	718
57	Lebanon	0.036	0.0366	1 040	1 587	2 627
58	Marshall Islands	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
59	Mongolia	0.004	0.0100	284	434	718
60	Oman	0.111	0.1127	3 207	4 892	8 100
61	Pakistan	0.114	0.1158	3 294	5 025	8 318
62	Palau	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
63	Philippines	0.212	0.2153	6 126	9 344	15 469
64	Qatar	0.269	0.2732	7 773	11 856	19 629
65	Republic of Korea	2.574	2.6145	74 373	113 448	187 821
66	Samoa	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
67	Saudi Arabia	1.184	1.2026	34 211	52 184	86 395
68	Singapore	0.504	0.5119	14 563	22 214	36 776
69	Sri Lanka	0.045	0.0457	1 300	1 983	3 284
70	State of Palestine	0.011	0.0112	318	485	803
71	Syrian Arab Republic	0.009	0.0100	284	434	718
72	Thailand	0.368	0.3738	10 633	16 219	26 852



<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Minamata scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Contributions for 2024</i>	<i>Contributions for 2025</i>	<i>Total contributions to the general trust fund for 2024–2025</i>	
73	Tonga	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
74	Tuvalu	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
75	United Arab Emirates	0.635	0.6450	18 348	27 987	46 335
76	Vanuatu	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
77	Viet Nam	0.093	0.0945	2 687	4 099	6 786
<b>Eastern European States (18)</b>						
78	Albania	0.008	0.0100	284	434	718
79	Armenia	0.007	0.0100	284	434	718
80	Bulgaria	0.056	0.0569	1 618	2 468	4 086
81	Croatia	0.091	0.0924	2 629	4 011	6 640
82	Czechia	0.34	0.3454	9 824	14 985	24 809
83	Estonia	0.044	0.0447	1 271	1 939	3 211
84	Georgia	0.008	0.0100	284	434	718
85	Hungary	0.228	0.2316	6 588	10 049	16 637
86	Latvia	0.05	0.0508	1 445	2 204	3 648
87	Lithuania	0.077	0.0782	2 225	3 394	5 619
88	Montenegro	0.004	0.0100	284	434	718
89	North Macedonia	0.007	0.0100	284	434	718
90	Poland	0.837	0.8502	24 184	36 890	61 075
91	Republic of Moldova	0.005	0.0100	284	434	718
92	Romania	0.312	0.3169	9 015	13 751	22 766
93	Slovakia	0.155	0.1574	4 479	6 832	11 310
94	Slovenia	0.079	0.0802	2 283	3 482	5 765
95	Ukraine	0.056	0.0569	1 618	2 468	4 086
<b>Latin America and Caribbean States (26)</b>						
96	Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.0100	284	434	718
97	Argentina	0.719	0.7303	20 775	31 690	52 464
98	Bahamas	0.019	0.0193	549	837	1 386
99	Belize	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
100	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.019	0.0193	549	837	1 386
101	Brazil	2.013	2.0447	58 164	88 722	146 886
102	Chile	0.42	0.4266	12 136	18 511	30 647
103	Colombia	0.246	0.2499	7 108	10 842	17 950
104	Costa Rica	0.069	0.0701	1 994	3 041	5 035
105	Cuba	0.095	0.0965	2 745	4 187	6 932
106	Dominican Republic	0.067	0.0681	1 936	2 953	4 889
107	Ecuador	0.077	0.0782	2 225	3 394	5 619
108	El Salvador	0.013	0.0132	376	573	949

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Minamata scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Contributions for 2024</i>	<i>Contributions for 2025</i>	<i>Total contributions to the general trust fund for 2024–2025</i>	
109	Guyana	0.004	0.0100	284	434	718
110	Honduras	0.009	0.0100	284	434	718
111	Jamaica	0.008	0.0100	284	434	718
112	Mexico	1.221	1.2402	35 280	53 815	89 095
113	Nicaragua	0.005	0.0100	284	434	718
114	Panama	0.09	0.0914	2 600	3 967	6 567
115	Paraguay	0.026	0.0264	751	1 146	1 897
116	Peru	0.163	0.1656	4 710	7 184	11 894
117	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.002	0.0100	284	434	718
118	Saint Lucia	0.002	0.0100	284	434	718
119	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.0100	284	434	718
120	Suriname	0.003	0.0100	284	434	718
121	Uruguay	0.092	0.0934	2 658	4 055	6 713
<b>Western European and other States (26)</b>						
122	Australia	2.111	2.1442	60 995	93 041	154 037
123	Austria	0.679	0.6897	19 619	29 927	49 546
124	Belgium	0.828	0.8410	23 924	36 494	60 418
125	Canada	2.628	2.6694	75 934	115 828	191 762
126	Denmark	0.553	0.5617	15 978	24 373	40 352
127	European Union	2.5	2.5000	71 115	108 478	179 593
128	Finland	0.417	0.4236	12 049	18 379	30 428
129	France	4.318	4.3860	124 765	190 314	315 079
130	Germany	6.111	6.2072	176 572	269 340	445 911
131	Greece	0.325	0.3301	9 391	14 324	23 715
132	Iceland	0.036	0.0366	1 040	1 587	2 627
133	Ireland	0.439	0.4459	12 684	19 349	32 033
134	Italy	3.189	3.2392	92 143	140 554	232 697
135	Liechtenstein	0.01	0.0102	289	441	730
136	Luxembourg	0.068	0.0691	1 965	2 997	4 962
137	Malta	0.019	0.0193	549	837	1 386
138	Monaco	0.011	0.0112	318	485	803
139	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	1.377	1.3987	39 787	60 691	100 478
140	Norway	0.679	0.6897	19 619	29 927	49 546
141	Portugal	0.353	0.3586	10 200	15 558	25 758
142	Spain	2.134	2.1676	61 660	94 055	155 715
143	Sweden	0.871	0.8847	25 167	38 389	63 556
144	Switzerland	1.134	1.1519	32 766	49 981	82 746
145	Türkiye	0.845	0.8583	24 415	37 243	61 659

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Minamata scale of assessment (%)</i>	<i>Contributions for 2024</i>	<i>Contributions for 2025</i>	<i>Total contributions to the general trust fund for 2024–2025</i>
146 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.375	4.4439	126 412	192 826	319 238
147 United States of America	22	22.0000	625 813	954 606	1 580 419
<b>Total assessed contributions</b>		<b>100.0000</b>	<b>2 844 604</b>	<b>4 339 118</b>	<b>7 183 722</b>
<b>Total approved budget (including host country contribution<sup>a</sup>)</b>			<b>3 462 127</b>	<b>4 939 427</b>	<b>8 401 554</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes the estimated host country contribution of Switzerland to the general trust fund in United States dollars.

Table 3  
Indicative secretariat staffing for the biennium 2024–2025

	<i>General trust fund</i>	<i>Special trust fund</i>	<i>UNEP programme support costs</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>A. Professional categories</b>				
D-1	1			1
P-5	1	1		2
P-4	3		1	4
P-3 <sup>a</sup>	2			2
P-2				
<b>Subtotal (A)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>B. General Service category</b>				
GS <sup>b</sup>	4		1	5
<b>Subtotal (B)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total (A + B)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>

<sup>a</sup> The P-3 Programme Officer position for national reporting and effectiveness evaluation is only budgeted starting in 2025, and the position will be re-evaluated at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties for possible extension beyond mid-2028.

<sup>b</sup> Includes the reclassification of the GS-5 Programme Management Assistant position to the GS-6 level.

*Note:* In addition to the above staffing table, Italy is funding a P-2 Junior Professional Officer until 31 October 2024 (the last year on a cost-sharing basis).

## MC-5/21: Dates and venue of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

### *The Conference of the Parties*

- Decides* to convene the next meeting of the Conferences of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury from 3 to 7 November 2025 in Geneva;
- Requests* the Executive Secretary, in order to assist parties in preparing for the meeting, to support, subject to the availability of resources, regional meetings, held in coordination with other regional meetings, to assist regional preparatory processes;
- Invites* parties to submit, at least three months before the opening of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, offers to host the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, in 2025.