

**MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY**

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Implementation and Compliance Committee**Minamata Convention on Mercury****Seventh meeting**

Geneva, 18–20 February 2025

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

National reporting pursuant to Article 21**Overview of the status and results related to matters under review by the Committee and other relevant tasks requested by the Committee at its fifth meeting**

1. The present note provides an overview of the status and results related to matters under review by the Committee and other relevant tasks requested by the Committee at its fifth meeting, held in Geneva from 7–9 March 2023. This note covers the period from 10 March 2023 to 31 December 2024.
2. At its fifth meeting, the Committee requested the Secretariat to undertake relevant tasks on matters related to Articles 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. A total 16 tasks were requested of the Secretariat. Of the 16 tasks:
 - 12 tasks were completed, with objectives achieved.
 - 3 tasks were completed; however, no information was received from relevant Parties.
 - 1 task is still in-progress.
3. The following table contains the relevant status of activities and results on each matter under review by the Committee.

Matters under review and other tasks	Status of activities and Results
<i>Article 3: Mercury supply sources and trade</i>	
The Committee requested the Secretariat to reach out to Parties on matters related to Article 3 paragraph 5 (stocks and sources) as follows: a) to Parties who responded “No” to question 3.3, but who have carried out Minamata Initial Assessments, to seek clarification on the challenges faced;	(a) ¹ : Completed. Three of the four Parties covered under item (a) provided their clarification on the implementation challenges they faced; these are summarized as follows: • inadequate testing facilities; • lack of resources including but not limited to funding; • focused endeavour on mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector; and

* UNEP/MC/ICC.7/1.

¹ The Secretariat organized a workshop entitled, Managing Mercury Trade: Experience from Parties with an ASGM sector, 6 June 2024, Batangas, Philippines, where it aligned the Committee’s request with the agenda and participants of the workshops to solicit the information requested.

b) to Parties who responded “yes” to provide information on their endeavours, if they have not already done so, including on the results of the efforts undertaken (even if identification is not yet completed), amounts of stocks and supplies, and, if possible, calculation method used. c) The Committee requested the Secretariat to collect information on accumulated stocks and calculation methods which could provide a first step to further clarify the accumulated stockpiles meaning and calculation methods.	institutional strengthening and capacity-building needs (b): All three Parties covered under item (b) provided additional information in their second short national reports-describing their endeavours, the results of the effort undertaken, and quantities of identified stocks and sources. The results are covered in the Secretariat’s findings in UNEP/MC/ICC.7/5 (c): In progress. The Secretariat consolidated this task with the work on updating existing guidance on stocks 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 as request by the COP under decision MC-5/2. The task is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2025.
<i>Article 4: Mercury-added products</i>	
The Committee invited relevant Parties to share, through the Secretariat, a strategy on how they plan to address challenges, including those identified in their respective Minamata Initial Assessments, a proposed time schedule with milestones to implement relevant paragraphs of Article 4, and what kind of assistance they may still need taking into account information provided during the global workshop.	Completed. The Secretariat, with the financial support of the European Union, organized a global workshop on mercury-added products in Geneva in June 2023, inviting Parties who responded that they have not implemented measures to phase-out mercury-added products. The Secretariat, in cooperation with Basel Convention Regional Centres and the European Environment Bureau, followed up with the Parties that participated in the workshop to develop strategies to catch up with the 2020 phase-out deadlines. The report of this EU-funded project will be posted on the Convention website. The project also included a webinar “Mercury-Added Products: Amendment of Annex A and COP Decision on Cosmetics”, May 2024, six webinars in UN languages on mercury-added products in June-July 2024, and the development of capacity-building materials in six UN languages.²
<i>Article 5: Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used</i>	
The Committee requested the Secretariat, to reach out to 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.	Completed. A response to the Secretariat’s request for information was received from the relevant Party on 16 July 2024.³ The Party explained that it will need to maintain the confidentiality of information and will not be able provide information on the complete number of facilities and estimated amount of mercury used in processes listed in Part II of Annex B.
<i>Article 7: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining</i>	

² See a report to COP-5 (UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/3), and information on Minamata Online and six language webinars.

³ An initial request for information was contained in the 22 January 2024 letter by the Executive Secretary issued to Parties and stakeholders which included a request to provide 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. After a reasonable time elapsed, and no response was received, the Secretariat followed up with the Party on 19 June 2024.

The Committee noted that some Parties whose National Action Plan (NAP) submission deadlines fell in 2020 had not submitted their NAPs in accordance with paragraph 3(a) of Article 7. Thus, the Committee reminds those Parties of their obligation to submit their NAPs and requests them to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible of the expected date of completion and to submit them by 31 December 2023. The Committee encouraged Parties whose NAPs became due or would become due after the first full national reporting period to submit them to the Secretariat in a timely manner.	Completed. 12 NAPs have been submitted to the Secretariat since the fifth meeting of the Committee. Seven NAPs (Cote d'Ivoire, Costa Rica, Eritrea, Indonesia, Rwanda, Togo and Zambia) were submitted in 2023 and five NAPs (Cameroon, Colombia, Gabon, Mozambique, and Suriname) were submitted in 2024.
<i>Article 8: Emissions</i>	
The Committee agreed to: - Reach out, through the Secretariat, to Parties who cited their Minamata Initial Assessments or other similar endeavours in their response to specify the measures described in those assessments, to provide information on the challenges that Parties faced, and to submit the assessments to the Secretariat if they had not done so. - Update the draft guidance on national reporting (Guidance) to support Parties in reporting on the effectiveness of the measures, noting need for further clarity on how to report on the effectiveness of measures taken, which resulted in a limited number of Parties reporting on it.	(a): No information has been received since the initial request for information was made on 22 January 2024 in a letter the Executive Secretary issued to Parties and stakeholders which included a request for Parties to: - Complete and submit Minamata Initial Assessments if they are developing one but not have not submitted. - Submit the national plan under Article 8, if the Party chose to develop one in line with paragraph 2 of decision MC-5/8. - Submit information on the Party's experience in using guidance under Article 8 paragraphs 8 and 9 by 31 March 2025. (b): Completed. Additional explanatory text was added to reflect the Committee's recommendation.
<i>Article 9: Releases</i>	
The Committee agreed to: - Reach out, through the Secretariat, to Parties who have not identified relevant source categories pursuant to Paragraph 3 of Article 9 and invite them to provide a timeline for identifying relevant point sources of releases in their territories including the reasons and challenges for not having identified the sources yet. - Reach out, through the Secretariat, to Parties that have incomplete responses on the measures they had taken in implementing Paragraph 5 of Article 9 and on any challenges they may have encountered. - Update the draft guidance on national reporting to support Parties in reporting on the effectiveness of the measures, noting need for further clarity on how to report on the effectiveness of measures taken, which resulted in a limited number of Parties reporting on it.	(a): No information has been received. The Secretariat reached out to the two Parties covered under task (a) on 19 June 2024 and set a deadline of 19 July 2024 for the submission of the information requested by the Committee. (b): The Secretariat convened a Minamata Online session on mercury releases in October 2024 and aligned the agenda and participation with the Committee's request and collected information on challenges and needs for Parties to implement Article 9. No information was received. (c): Completed. The Guidance provides sufficient example on how to report on effectiveness. With the adoption of the Guidance on the best available techniques and best environmental practices to control releases from relevant sources under decision MC-5/9, Parties have an additional resource to refer to in describing the effectiveness of measures taken.

<i>Article 10: Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury other than waste mercury</i>	
a) The Committee agreed to reach out, through the Secretariat, to Parties who have not yet taken any measures under Article 10 but have reported to (i) have been trading in mercury and mercury compounds, (ii) have processes or facilities in their territories using mercury and mercury compounds, or (iii) have an artisanal-small scale gold mining sector in their territories, to seek additional information, such as information on the challenges to implementation it is facing, other measures and other pertinent information that can help the Committee assess the Party's needs in order to develop its recommendations to facilitate the Party's implementation and compliance with Article 10. b) The Committee also requested the Secretariat to update the draft guidance on national reporting with reference to the definition of interim storage as described in the guidance for interim storage adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting.	(a): Completed. The following information on the challenges encountered in implementing Article 10 was raised by Parties at a workshop entitled, Managing Mercury Trade: Experience from Parties with an ASGM sector, 6 June 2024, which was organized by the Secretariat where it aligned the Committee's request with the agenda and participants of the workshops to solicit the information requested. Majority of the comments received was that due to the illegal status of the ASGM operation in their territories, in general, it was difficult to enforce environmentally sound storage of mercury in these illegal sites. On 19 June 2024, the Secretariat reached out by email to relevant Parties to ask for the information requested by the Committee, setting a 19 July 2024 deadline. No information was received as of the deadline. (b): Completed. Additional text was added to reflect the Committee's recommendation.
<i>Article 11</i>	
a) The Committee agreed to reach out, through the Secretariat, to Parties that had not yet taken any measures under Article 11 to invite them to share information on challenges faced in the implementation of Article 11, strategies to address such challenges, if available, and other pertinent information that could help the Committee develop recommendations to facilitate parties' implementation and compliance with Article 11. b) The Committee invited the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention to cooperate and jointly review the information on the implementation of paragraph 3 of Article 11.	(a)⁴: Completed. One Party (El Salvador) responded to the request for information under task (a). The Party responded that it is regulating mercury wastes in accordance with national regulations and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. (b): Completed. With financial support from Switzerland, the Secretariat cooperated with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, as well as the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, to develop a capacity-building material on mercury waste management building on the available information on the implementation of paragraph 3 of Article 11. The capacity-building material in six UN languages was presented at webinars in November-December 2024.
<i>Article 12</i>	

⁴ The Secretariat reached out by email to 22 Parties on 5 December 2024.

The Committee agreed to reach out, through the Secretariat, to Parties who had not yet taken any measures under Article 12 to share challenges faced in the implementation of Article 12, strategies to address such challenges, if available, and other pertinent information that could help the Committee develop recommendations to facilitate Parties' implementation and compliance with Article 12.	Completed. The Secretariat in cooperation with the International Committee on Contaminated Land and convened a technical meeting in Bern, Switzerland, in October 2024 with the financial support from Switzerland. The Secretariat aligned the agenda and participants to solicit the information requested by the Committee. Botswana, Dominican Republic, Mexico, North Macedonian and Uganda presented on their experiences and challenges in addressing mercury-contaminated sites. No information was received in the first attempt to solicit information. The Secretariat reached out to the relevant Parties on 19 June 2024 regarding the information requested by the Committee with a 19 July 2024 deadline.
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