

**Invitation to submit an expression of intent to provide data and to review the draft plan for data analysis to support the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

To whom it may concern,

Article 22 of the Minamata Convention provides that the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention on the basis of available scientific, environmental, technical, financial and economic information. The COP, in its decision [MC-4/11](#), established the Open-Ended Scientific Group (OESG) to develop a scientific report compiling, analyzing and synthesizing monitoring data for effectiveness evaluation. The OESG is currently working to develop monitoring, emission and release data summary reports, in line with the [plans](#) submitted to COP-5.

The Secretariat has issued a [letter](#) on 26 September 2023 to invite Parties and observers to submit an expression of intent to provide data on mercury levels in biota, water, sediment, soil, and in humans, as well as data from emissions and releases inventories, to support the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention. The Secretariat appreciates the submission of 106 expressions of interest, which have been compiled [here](#). The Secretariat has made a contract with the Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) to establish a data repository and to receive and compile the data. On behalf of the OESG, BRI has started to reach out to the contact points indicated in the expressions of intent to invite the submission of data to the repository, together with a [data use authorization form](#) in which submitters may specify the condition of data use as appropriate.

The OESG, having reviewed the list of expressions of interest, agreed to strengthen the efforts to collect existing data, while compiling and analyzing submitted data. In order to support the first effectiveness evaluation, **you are kindly invited to consider the submission of further expression of intent to provide data**. The template for expressing intent to provide data, attached to the letter of 26 September 2023, has been converted to Microsoft Forms to facilitate the data processing. **Please submit your expression of intent through: <https://forms.office.com/r/dTZRj2Zn2N>**

If you cannot access the Microsoft Forms, you may also submit your expression of intent using the paper version available from this [link](#).

The OESG will also reach out to the holders of the existing dataset identified in the plans. The data already available in existing datasets such as [European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Emissions Database](#) and [Minamata Initial Assessment Mercury Inventory Dashboard](#) are already being used by OESG and therefore those data do not need to be submitted, unless you intend to submit updated data.

The information on the progress of the work of the OESG will be kept updated on the Convention [website](#). You may wish to refer to the current [list](#) of OESG members and experts in the roster, and consider additional nomination of expert on the roster to support the work of the OESG.

If you have any question, please contact the Secretariat ([mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org](mailto:mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org)), with a copy to Mr. Eisaku Toda ([eisaku.toda@un.org](mailto:eisaku.toda@un.org)).

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury