

DRAFT REPORT OF THE NINTH MEETING

BUREAU OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Tuesday, 12 January 2022, by teleconference

Participants

Present: Rosa Vivien Ratnawati (Indonesia, for Asia and Pacific, President), W.T.B Dissanayake (Sri Lanka, for Asia and Pacific), Oarabile Serumola (Botswana, for Africa), Roger Baro (Burkina Faso, for Africa), Angela Patricia Rivera Galvis (Colombia, for Latin America and the Caribbean), Bethune Morgan (Jamaica, for Latin America and the Caribbean), Marie-Claire Lhenry (France, for the Western European and Others), Alison Dickson (Canada, for the Western European and Others), Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia, for Eastern European States) Karmen Krajnc (Slovenia, for Eastern European States), Paulina Riquelme (Chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, Ex officio member) and members of the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

1. Opening of the meeting

- Ms. Rosa Vivien Ratnawati, the President of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (COP-4), welcomed the members of the Bureau and thanked them for joining the ninth online meeting.
- Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, added her warm welcome to the members of the Bureau.
- The agenda of the meeting was adopted without change.

2. Status of organization of COP-4.2

- The secretariat presented on the progress of organization for COP-4.2 and its preparatory meetings. Bureau received information on the invitation to COP-4 sent to parties and observers last December, on the registration process and other logistical matters. The Bureau was informed that the following limitation on the number of delegates attending in person in Bali would be applied: 6 delegates per Party and 2 delegates per observer country or organization. Financial support will be offered to one delegate from each eligible country Party.
- The secretariat presented the findings of the *International Travel Readiness Survey* (organized by the secretariat which was open for Parties to respond to from 18 November – 17 December 2021). The secretariat noted that of the 91 Parties that took part in the survey, 100% confirmed the availability of a PCR test prior to departure, and 91% of the respondents confirmed that the planned delegate/s will have received a full course of one of the WHO listed vaccinations by the time of travel to attend the COP-4.2 meeting.
- Further, Bureau took note of the draft overview of the COP-4.2 and its schedule of agenda items. The secretariat member noted that the proposed schedule is designed to take into account the time required in smaller groups on key agenda items, ensure no more than one group works alongside plenary, or two groups work concurrently once plenary is adjourned, ensuring that the draft decisions are finalised in time for the programme of work and budget group and the adoption of the budget. There were no comments to the presented COP-4.2 schedule.
- The President reiterated the readiness of the Indonesian Government to ensure the organization of COP-4.2 in Bali as planned, taking into consideration the inclusive participation of all Parties and observers



and full compliance with international health protocols e.g. through implementation of a “bubble” system upon arrival and during the stay in Indonesia.

- She also noted that as the global community was fighting the new Omicron variant of COVID-19, several conferences were deferred to later dates. Therefore, it was important to define a contingency strategy, should the situation become unlike earlier predicted.
- The Executive Secretary acknowledged the efforts taken by regions and continents to fight the peak of the Omicron variant. In this context and under the condition of in-person negotiations, the secretariat is investigating an additional contingency measure to apply special arrangements for Parties who will not be able to physically attend COP-4.2 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.
- The Bureau members transmitted several enquiries and comments related to practical arrangements and health protocol, as follows:
 - if the limit of delegates refers to the number of delegates present in the venue at one time or to the total number of delegates from a Party present in Bali;
 - if there will be any limitation on the number of delegates present in the contact groups rooms;
 - a suggestion to consider the overall number of observers in person as well as a request to clarify if the limitation on the number of observers is per country;
 - request for details on the quarantine procedures in case of positive test upon arrival or during the meeting, as well as on vaccination requirements;
 - the importance of having the health protocols and guidance in advance as some participants will have to travel more than 30 hours with many transit points;
 - enquiry about a possibility to view the proceedings of the meeting for delegates from capitals.
- In response, the secretariat informed that according to the latest instructions received from the Indonesian authorities, there is a requirement to be fully vaccinated or to have a letter from the respective health authorities from the country of origin of the delegate. So far, there is no information on any booster requirement. Secretariat also informed it was preparing arrangements for delegates to view the meetings' proceedings through online platform. Furthermore, the secretariat pointed out that the invitation letter included a provision on the confirmation of registration once the evaluation of total numbers of participants had taken place.
- President responded that that health protocols were being developed and further detailed information would be shared in due time.

3. Consultations on the effectiveness evaluation framework

- The secretariat recalled that COP-4.1 opened the COP agenda item on effectiveness evaluation, and that following the submission of a Conference Room Paper and discussion during the online segment, the COP agreed to hold intersessional consultations prior to COP-4.2 on the framework to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention. The secretariat outlined the plan of work it prepared to support Parties in this regard, informing also that the deadline for the submission of written comments was 20 January.

4. Other preparatory meetings and consultations in the run-up to COP-4.2

- The secretariat presented the plan for meetings and consultations in preparation for COP-4.2, including regional preparatory meetings, preparatory work on the proposed 2023 programme of work and budget, and additional information meetings.
- The secretariat briefed on the planned launch of the Online Budget Forum dedicated to the proposed programme of work and budget for 2023 and the Online Technical Documents Forum dedicated to a sub-set of technical documents to be considered at COP-4.2 for adoption or agreement on the use by Parties.
- Furthermore, the secretariat presented the planned information sessions on the COP-4 documents (1-3 February) and a week of Pre-COP side events (7-11 March), the schedule of the online regional



preparatory meetings (7-11 February) and the in-person regional meetings prior to COP-4.2 (19-20 March).

- The Bureau member from EU region sought clarification on the arrangements for participation of other delegates than head and alternate of head of delegation at the online dedicated forums. The secretariat confirmed the presented arrangements, but noted that special arrangements could be discussed upon receipt of a such request from a Party.
- On the question from the ICC Chair regarding the deadline for registration and the possibility to extend it due to holidays season in the southern hemisphere, secretariat informed that deadline for registration (including Kronos registration and receipt by secretariat of a delegation letter) was 11 February, and that this deadline was especially important to be met by funded participants. As for the question regarding the foreseen arrangements for who can speak during in-person contact groups, secretariat noted that arrangements for who can take the floor during contact groups sessions remained the same as per usual practice.

5. Information on election of COP-5 Bureau

- The secretariat presented the information on the election of officers of COP-5 Bureau and referred to the COP-4 document on the matter ([UNEP/MC/COP.4/1/Add.2](#)). The document also contained information for Parties who may want to host a meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

6. Bali Declaration

- Ambassador Muhsin Shiyab thanked Parties and stakeholders for responsiveness and comments received on the first draft of the Bali Declaration on Illegal Trade of Mercury. He also noted that some of the Parties expressed their willingness to co-sponsor the Bali Declaration. Furthermore, he introduced the deadlines for submission of written comments on the 1st consolidated draft by 31 January 2022 and on the 2nd consolidated draft by 16 March 2022.
- The Ambassador noted Indonesia's intention to prepare an online platform that would include all comments and inputs on the draft declaration, including from observers and those who commented earlier. He indicated the platform would be operational very soon and he expressed hope that Bureau members will comment further and consider co-sponsorship. He indicated that comments sent through the secretariat would also be welcomed.

7. Any other business

- **Date of the following Bureau meeting**

The President proposed to schedule the next meeting of the Bureau by video conference on 22 February 2022.

The next meeting of the Bureau will consider further preparation for COP-4.