



On behalf of the Africa region, Sierra Leone and Mauritius - co-organized with CLASP and supported by the Minamata Convention Secretariat

Duration: 120 mins (2h)

Background

Delegates from 147 countries agreed to **phase out fluorescent lighting globally and completely by 2027** at the Minamata Convention on Mercury Fifth Conference of Parties (COP5) in November 2023. This decision complements decisions at Minamata COP4 in March 2022 to phase out compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), lamps commonly found in homes, by 2025.

Both decisions will accelerate global adoption of LEDs by effectively putting an end to the fluorescent lighting industry, with the limited exception of special uses like some transport applications.

The Africa region has galvanized efforts to end mercury in lighting, taking the lead at introducing and negotiating amendments to phase out fluorescents under the Minamata Convention. The region championed these efforts due to concerns about becoming dumping grounds of products banned in the Global North and their porous borders that allow products into the markets even when national regulations are in place.

A full transition to LEDs in Africa by 2027 will have significant environmental and energy benefits. CLASP estimates that compliance with Minamata decisions in the region will (cumulatively from the phase out dates to 2050):

- avoid **4 metric tons** of mercury pollution from leaking into the environment.
- avoid **189 million tons of CO2** emissions.
- save approximately **500 TWh of the region's total electricity consumption** and
- save **\$51 billion USD**.

About the Webinar

This webinar will aim to provide policymakers in the Africa region with an overview of pathways available to them to comply with the Minamata Convention decisions, to realize energy and financial savings and health and environment protection. The session will include presentations from various stakeholders sharing success stories, case studies and experiences in adopting and implementing available measures to phase out fluorescent lighting.

The webinar will bring together a wide range of government stakeholders including environmental agencies through Minamata focal points, energy agencies, standards bureaus and customs officials. Other participants will include policy and technical experts from different organizations working on lighting including CLASP, UNIDO, NRCS and UNEP.

The webinar will be an online event presented in English with the option of live simultaneous French translation via a separate audio channel within the Zoom call.

Webinar objective: Increase number of countries that have adopted policies that ban/ stop/ phase out the sales, assembly and manufacture of lighting products containing mercury.

Webinar Key Results

- Highlight policy options available to policy makers to accelerate mercury phase outs.
- Build awareness on energy efficiency standards (MEPS) as an opportunity for compliance with Minamata decisions and to protect Africa markets from low quality mercury-free lighting products.
- Highlight other low effort pathways to close the loop on mercury in lighting such as product bans based on existing incandescent bans.
- Address compliance challenges and opportunities for countries in various stages of implementation.
- Identify early adopters (fast moving countries) that could benefit from additional support.

Proposed Agenda

Time	Session	Speakers
5mins	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Mr. Mohamed Kamara Bureau Member representing Africa, Minamata Convention on Mercury
15mins	Introductions and Scene Setting <i>COP 4 and COP 5 decisions on lighting and impacts</i>	David Kapindula Africa regional expert on Chemicals and Wastes
15mins	Provisions of the Minamata Convention and implementation status <i>Overview of Convention's obligations, amendments and implementation as reported by Parties</i>	Eisaku Toda Senior Programme Management Officer, Minamata Convention Secretariat, UNEP
15mins	Compliance pathways to Minamata Convention Decision to phase out fluorescent lighting	Ana Maria Carreno Senior Director, CLASP
10mins	Q&A from session one	Moderated by Rachel Kamande, CLiC
Regional/Country Presentations/ Case Studies		
10mins	Energy efficiency pathway <i>MEPS, options for adoption, testing requirements, label and building awareness and supporting tools</i>	Thabo Mabena , Operations Manager, National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS)
10mins	Product bans (based on technology/efficient) and compliance <i>Building on incandescent bans, success stories on compliance mechanisms</i>	Hubert Zan Assistant Manager, Energy Efficiency Inspection & Enforcement Ghana Energy Commission
10mins	Next steps after Regional harmonization of lighting MEPS – EAC and SADC <i>Elucidate on the next steps after the harmonization in both EAC and SADC as well as share their action plan for Africa both in the short run and long run in relation to lighting</i>	Alaeldin Mohamed Project Administrator, UNIDO
15min	CLiC 3.0 approach, next steps <i>Invite countries to talk about next step and identify fast movers that can be supported by CLiC</i>	Rachel Kamande Africa Program Lead, CLiC
10mins	Q&A from session two	Moderated by Angella Wekongo Associate, CLASP
5mins	Closing remarks	Dr. Sidi Ould Aloueimine Bureau Member representing Africa, Minamata Convention on Mercury

