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**Conference of the Parties to the  
Minamata Convention on Mercury  
Fourth meeting**

Online, 1–5 November 2021 and Bali, Indonesia,  
21–25 March 2022

Agenda item 4 (e) (i)

**Matters for consideration or action by the  
Conference of the Parties: financial resources  
and mechanism: Global Environment Facility**

## **Update on the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund**

### **Note by the secretariat**

1. Document UNEP/MC/COP.4/10 provided an overview of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund (GEF-8), including information relevant to the role of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as part of the financial mechanism as defined in paragraph 5 of article 13 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Document UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/8 reproduced in their entirety the August 2021 draft versions of the GEF-8 programming directions (in its annex I) and strategic positioning framework (in its annex II). The replenishment is the subject of negotiations under way under the auspices of the GEF trust fund and its trustee, the World Bank Group, to determine the resource allocations and programming directions for GEF-8, which will begin in July 2022 and continue for four years, until June 2026.
2. During the online segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, from 1 to 5 November 2021, parties presented their views on GEF-8, noting in particular numerous legally binding commitments with specific upcoming deadlines, indicating the need for adequate financing to support the implementation of those legally binding commitments. Parties requested that their statements on the matter be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of GEF and considered during the replenishment negotiations. The Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson participated in the online segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and thanked parties for the important insights they had provided. The President of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties thanked parties for their important statements on the need for a strong GEF-8 replenishment addressing their growing implementation needs and encouraged them to use the information provided in UNEP/MC/COP.4/10 and UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/8 in the context of their national processes relative to the GEF-8 replenishment.
3. The Executive Secretary to the Minamata Convention conveyed the statements made in plenary sessions by parties during the online segment, as set forth in the report of that segment,<sup>1</sup> to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of GEF in a letter dated 6 December 2021. (The Executive Secretary's letter is reproduced in the annex to the present note.) The Executive Secretary referred to the parties' statements in her address to GEF Council members at the sixty-second meeting of the

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.4/28.

Council, on 8 December 2021. The secretariat subsequently requested the GEF Council to distribute the letter, including party statements, to all GEF Council members.

4. The third replenishment meeting for GEF-8 took place from 2 to 4 February 2022 under the auspices of the GEF trust fund and its trustee, the World Bank Group. At that meeting, replenishment participants discussed a revised draft (dated 7 January 2022) of the GEF-8 programming directions document.<sup>2</sup> Of note, the draft eliminated the previously proposed “elimination of hazardous chemicals from supply chains” integrated programme, while retaining the other 10 proposed integrated programmes. It maintained all the key elements of the chemicals and waste focal area, including the Minamata Convention components, generally as set forth in the previous draft.

5. Additional documentation provided for the third replenishment meeting included an updated strategic positioning framework document<sup>3</sup> to correspond to the edits in the revised draft programming directions document and a GEF-8 programming scenarios and global environmental benefits targets document,<sup>4</sup> among others.<sup>5</sup> In line with replenishment participants’ previously stated interest in an ambitious replenishment process, three different programming scenarios were presented, reflecting overall GEF-wide funding envelopes of \$5 billion, \$6.5 billion and \$7 billion. These scenarios represent an increase over the funding envelope for the seventh replenishment of 25 per cent, 60 per cent and 75 per cent respectively. In each scenario, the funding for the chemicals and waste focal area would increase from the level of the seventh replenishment. The percentage allocations for the chemicals and waste focal area compared to the overall funding envelope in each of the scenarios stood at 14.4 per cent, 14.1 per cent and 13.8 per cent respectively and are under negotiation.

6. At the third replenishment meeting and in the light of the above draft documents, several participants expressed a preference for a higher allocation to the chemicals and waste focal area. Several participants expressed an interest in reinstating the integrated programme on the elimination of hazardous chemicals from supply chains, while some participants did not. In view of these interventions and of interventions on a wide range of other programming and policy issues, GEF will revise, and ensure coherence between, the programming directions, policy recommendations and programming scenarios documents, and will circulate them.

7. The replenishment participants also agreed to organize an interim meeting on 8 and 9 March 2022 to discuss the policy recommendations and the programming scenarios, in order to help prepare for the pledging session to be held during the final replenishment meeting.

8. The final replenishment meeting is scheduled to take place from 6 to 8 April 2022 under the auspices of the GEF trust fund and its trustee, the World Bank Group. Donor pledges and the financing framework for GEF-8 are expected to be finalized at that meeting. In June 2022, the GEF Council will review the summary of negotiations of the eighth replenishment of the GEF trust fund and is expected to endorse the programming directions, including the allocation of resources. The GEF-8 replenishment period would then begin in July 2022.

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<sup>2</sup> Global Environment Facility and World Bank Group, document GEF/R.08/17.

<sup>3</sup> GEF and World Bank Group, document GEF/R.08/11.

<sup>4</sup> GEF and World Bank Group, document GEF/R.08/15.

<sup>5</sup> The complete set of documents provided by GEF for the third replenishment meeting is available at [www.thegef.org/events/gef-8-replenishment-third-meeting](http://www.thegef.org/events/gef-8-replenishment-third-meeting).

**Annex\*****Letter from the Executive Secretary to the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility: party statements on the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund****Ref:** MC/GEF/2021/97

Geneva, 6 December 2021

**Subject: Call by Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury related to the GEF-8 Replenishment**

Dear Mr. Rodriguez,

As you know, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, meeting at their fourth meeting from 1-5 November 2021, addressed the topic of the 8<sup>th</sup> replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund. Compiled here, as input to the ongoing deliberations on the GEF-8 replenishment, are the statements of our parties delivered at the meeting. I appreciate your attention to ensuring that replenishment participants receive this document.

Collectively, these statements represent a clear message to participants in the replenishment discussions that a robust allocation to the Minamata Convention and to the Chemicals and Waste focal area, at a percentage higher than the GEF-7 allocation, is vital to support parties to fulfil their legally-binding commitments under the Convention.

Parties recognized the role that action on mercury can and must play in achieving the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, improving the health of millions of people and addressing the drivers of environmental degradation.

Parties expressed appreciation for the support made possible to date by the donors to the GEF Trust Fund. They noted that their implementation efforts increasingly must support them to achieve reductions in mercury use and emissions as they meet Convention deadlines. Adequate and reliable financial assistance is needed to advance actions and innovative solutions in the framework of challenges and commitments under the Convention.

The fact that the upcoming GEF Council meeting will consider projects that take up the last remaining amount of financing allocated to the Convention in GEF-7 demonstrates the very significant ongoing demand, the great efforts by parties towards implementation, and the relevance of the work in meeting targets.

I appreciate the efforts of you and your staff to engage with our parties on this critically important topic. My staff and I look forward to further input to the replenishment process and to your participation in the resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury in March of 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Monika Stankiewicz  
Executive Secretary

**To:** Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez  
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility

**Cc:** Mr. Gustavo Fonseca, Global Environment Facility secretariat  
Ms. Chizuru Aoki, Global Environment Facility secretariat  
Mr. Anil Sookdeo, Global Environment Facility secretariat

**Att:** Statements delivered by parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the financial resources and mechanism during the online segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, 1–5 November 2021

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\* The annex has not been formally edited.