



**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 (i)

**Matters for consideration or action by the
Conference of the Parties: effectiveness evaluation****Giving effect to article 22 of the Minamata Convention on
Mercury: effectiveness evaluation****Addendum****Consultations on the framework for the evaluation of the
effectiveness of the Convention****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. During the online segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, consideration began of agenda item 4 (i) on effectiveness evaluation of the Convention. Following presentation by the secretariat of an overview of the documents under that item, the President of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties recalled that, after the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, some parties had initiated informal consultations on the items that had remained unresolved at that meeting and for which further work pursuant to decision MC-3/10 had not been mandated.¹ The representative of Norway reported on the informal consultations undertaken and introduced a proposal by Norway and Canada on a framework for the first effectiveness evaluation, as set out in a conference room paper for the fourth meeting.²

2. Following discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to hold intersessional consultations to be facilitated by the secretariat on the framework for evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention, in preparation for the resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 21 to 25 March 2022.

¹ See UNEP/MC/COP.4/28, the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the work of its fourth meeting (online segment).

² UNEP/MC/COP.4/CRP.1, a framework for the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, available at www.mercuryconvention.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/UNEP-MC-COP.4-CRP.1_NorCan_EE.English_Final.pdf.

II. Intersessional consultations in preparation for the resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

3. On 9 December 2021, the Executive Secretary sent information on the secretariat's workplan to support the intersessional consultations on the framework for the first effectiveness evaluation.

4. An information session was held on 15 December 2021 Parties and stakeholders were invited to submit written comments by 20 January. The comments submitted were made available in the dedicated online workspace for the framework.³

5. On 25 and 27 January 2022, the secretariat organized online consultations with regard to the written comments received. Parties were invited to present the written submissions, make additional comments, request clarifications and provide any other relevant information. On 10 March, the secretariat convened a so-called check-in session to further review matters relating to the effectiveness evaluation in advance of the resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to provide an update on any other information that could support parties in their preparations to give effect to article 22.

6. Forty-seven parties actively participated in the consultation process during the intersessional period between the online segment in November 2021 and the in-person segment to be held in March 2022, as did a number of non-party States and 26 stakeholder organizations. Three parties submitted general written comments expressing their commitment to continued engagement in the process and their appreciation for the work done so far.⁴ Specific written comments, questions and clarifications were received from six parties.⁵

7. Parties made use of various documents to prepare written comments and other contributions, including UNEP/MC/COP.4/18, on effectiveness evaluation, containing a table with eight areas of work to give effect to article 22; UNEP/MC/COP.4/CRP.1, a proposal submitted for consideration during the first segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties by Norway and Canada, containing a framework for the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention; UNEP/MC/COP.4/18/Add.1 and UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/11, documents setting out the intersessional work done by parties towards the finalization of indicators; UNEP/MC/COP.4/18/Add.2, UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/12 and UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/25, documents outlining the intersessional work done by parties and experts to advance the work on the drafting of guidance on monitoring to maintain harmonized, comparable information on mercury levels in the environment to support the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention; and UNEP/MC/COP.3/14, the report of the ad hoc technical expert group for effectiveness evaluation that prepared a proposed framework for the effectiveness evaluation for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

III. Compilation

8. The compilation of written comments, questions and clarifications is set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/29, as follows:

(a) Annex I contains specific written comments, questions and clarifications from the following parties, compiled in the order in which they were received: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (written comments), Islamic Republic of Iran (written comments), United States of America (written comments), European Union and its member States (written comments), Japan (written comments), China (written comments), China (additional questions), United States (clarification).

(b) Annex II contains the general written comments from the following parties, compiled in the order in which they were received: Oman, Kuwait, Mauritius.

³ owncloud.unog.ch/s/2dmsHJXANpYwH8m.

⁴ General written comments were received from Kuwait, Mauritius and Oman.

⁵ Specific written comments, questions and clarifications were received from China, the European Union and its member States, Iran, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.