



MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Group of Technical Experts on Mercury Releases Intersessional Work between COP 3 and 4

First On-line Meeting
Thursday 7 May 2020, 15h00-16h20 CEST

Summary

Members who participated

Ms. Bianca Hlobsile Mkhathshwa-Dlamini, Eswatini
Mr. Olubunmi Olusanya, Nigeria
Mr. James Nyirenda, Zambia
Ms. YE Jing, China
Ms. Kania Dewi, Indonesia
Mr. SUZUKI Noriyuki, Japan
Mr. Ahmed Mohammad Ajabnoor, Saudi Arabia
Mr. Ajith Priyal de Alwis, Sri Lanka
Mr. Alex Radway, European Union
Mr. Ian Marnane, European Union
Ms. Lic. Lucía Muntaner, Argentina
Ms. Zuleika Castilhos, Brazil
Mr. Cristián Enrique Brito Martínez, Chile
Mr. Carlos Calleja-Amador, Costa Rica
Mr. Darcy Walrond, Guyana
Ms. Alison Dickson, Canada
Mr. Rafael Zubrzycki, Germany
Ms. Ine Merethe Lorgen, Norway
Ms. Petra Hagström, Sweden
Mr. Greg Helms, United States

1. Opening

Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention, welcomed the members and outlined the mandate of the group.

Eisaku Toda of the Minamata Convention Secretariat chaired the meeting. He explained that since this was the first teleconference after COP-3, only members were invited to the meeting.

The group adopted the agenda as circulated in advance.

2. Election of co-chairs

The group elected Bianca Hlobsile Mkhathshwa-Dlamini and Greg Helms as co-chairs. They will chair the meetings starting with the next on-line meeting.

3. Modalities and schedule of work

The group agreed to continue to work in an inclusive manner, as it did during the previous intersessional period, by inviting observers to on-line meetings, with the following understanding:

- The Secretariat confirms the expertise of nominated observers against the recommended qualifications of members and observers specified in the TOR of the group. It will make relevant information, such as CVs, available to the group, and seek its advice as appropriate.
- Observers will participate in the discussion as invited by the group, but will not be part of its decision-making.

The Secretariat will reach out to the observers who participated in the previous intersessional work and review forthcoming nominations.

The group agreed to work on-line as much as possible, leaving the face-to-face meeting option open for 2021, considering the progress made, availability of resources and situation of travel restrictions.

The group agreed to continue to work in line with the road map included in the COP-3 document, and discuss further schedule at the next on-line meeting with the participation of observers.

4. Overview of the submissions and need for further information collection

The group noted the wealth of existing information, including the UNEP mercury toolkit and PRTR methodologies. Members pointed out that the preliminary list of potentially relevant point source categories should be reviewed again noting COP's considerations provided in its decision MC-3/4¹, and gaps in release estimation methods should be identified referring to the table.

The group agreed that members and observers should review the list of source categories from this viewpoint and submit their views to the Secretariat. It also requested the Secretariat to collect further information by reaching out to PRTR communities and UNEP toolkit experts.

5. General guidance for release inventories

The group agreed that they need more time to review and comments on the Secretariat's draft for general guidance, and agreed that members and observers should submit comments, while posting the draft on the web for comments in parallel.

6. Any other business

The group agreed that next on-line meeting should take place just after the Basel Convention OEWG planned for the week of 22 June. Secretariat will do a Doodle poll to set up a date. The group agreed on the time slot of 14h-16h CEST.

¹ COP requested the group to base its work on the following considerations:

- (a) The proposed categories should not include potentially significant relevant point sources for which releases are addressed in other provisions of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, irrespective of whether those other provisions include an inventory obligation;
- (b) Given that article 9 of the Convention concerns relevant point sources, diffuse sources should not be included in the proposed categories. The categories identified in the guidance should also be limited to those source categories for which mercury releases have been documented;
- (c) The obligation to ensure the environmentally sound management of waste set out under the Convention addresses significant releases to land and water;
- (d) While wastewater is addressed under article 9, parties may additionally control wastewater under article 11 of the Convention;
- (e) Subject to the completion of the work outlined above, and with a view to helping parties that wish to widen the scope of the inventory referred to in paragraph 6 of article 9 to additional point sources other than those covered by article 9, the guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases should also provide information on significant point sources of releases covered by other provisions of the Convention.