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

Geneva, 30 October–3 November 2023

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Organizational matters: election of officers for the  
intersessional period and the sixth meeting of the  
Conference of the Parties**

## **Election of officers**

### **Note by the secretariat**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury is expected to elect the officers of the Conference of the Parties who will serve from the closure of the fifth meeting until the closure of the sixth meeting.
2. The Conference of the Parties is also expected, pursuant to paragraph 3 of rule 3 of the rules of procedure for the Implementation and Compliance Committee, to elect, for two terms, six new members of the Committee to replace those members whose terms are about to expire.
3. In addition, the Conference of the Parties is expected to confirm the nomination of the members of the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance.
4. The present note provides information regarding the above-mentioned elections, which will take place during the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Each United Nations regional group, as appropriate, should submit related nominations to the secretariat no later than the second day of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **II. Implementation**

##### **A. Officers of the Conference of the Parties**

5. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of rule 22 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties, as adopted by decision MC-1/1, sets out the following procedures for the election of the officers to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties:

At the second and subsequent ordinary meeting[s] of the Conference of the Parties, a President and nine Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur, shall be elected from among the representatives of the parties present at the meeting. These officers shall serve as the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. Each of the five United Nations regional groups shall be represented by two Bureau members. These officers shall commence their term of office at

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\* UNEP/MC/COP.5/1.

the closure of the meeting at which they are elected and remain in office until the closure of the following ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting. The offices of the President and Rapporteur shall normally be subject to rotation among the United Nations regional groups. No elected officer may serve on the Bureau for more than two consecutive terms.

6. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties elected one president and nine vice-presidents from among the representatives present at the meeting to serve as officers from the closure of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties until the closure of the fifth meeting, as follows:

President: Claudia-Sorina Dumitru (Romania)

Vice-Presidents: Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia)

Oarabile Serumola (Botswana)

Roger Baro (Burkina Faso)

Oswaldo Patricio Álvarez Pérez (Chile)

Marie-Claire Lhenry (France)

Sverre-Thomas Jahre (Norway)

Syed Mujtaba Hussain (Pakistan)

Cheryl Eugene-St.Romain (Saint Lucia)

Saeed A. Alzahrani (Saudi Arabia)

7. The terms of office of the following Bureau members will expire at the closure of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties: Armenia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, France.

8. Also at its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties agreed that the rapporteur for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties would be designated by the Bureau during the intersessional period. At its first meeting, on 17 January 2023, the Bureau unanimously elected Marie-Claire Lhenry (France) as Rapporteur for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

9. At its fifth meeting, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties is to elect to the Bureau for its sixth meeting a president and nine vice-presidents, one of whom is to act as rapporteur, from among the representatives of the parties present at the meeting. To that end, two nominations from each United Nations regional group should be submitted to the secretariat no later than the second day of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

10. In accordance with both paragraph 3 of rule 22 of the rules of procedure and past practice, for the purposes of regional rotation the president of the Bureau for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is expected to be elected from among the Latin American and Caribbean States.

11. The chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee is to be a member ex-officio of the Bureau.

## **B. Members of the Implementation and Compliance Committee**

12. Pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of rule 3 of the rules of procedure for the Implementation and Compliance Committee, as adopted in decision MC-2/4, the Committee is to consist of 15 members, nominated by parties and elected by the Conference of the Parties, with due consideration for equitable geographical representation based on the five United Nations regional groups. The members of the Committee are to have competence in a field relevant to the Convention, and the membership is to reflect an appropriate balance of expertise.

13. Paragraph 3 of rule 3 of the rules of procedure for the Committee sets out the following procedures for the election of members of the Committee:

The first members of the Committee shall serve from the end of the first ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties until the end of the third ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties. At its third ordinary meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall re-elect ten members from among the first members of the Committee for one term, and elect five new members for two terms. The Conference of the Parties shall, at each ordinary meeting thereafter, elect for two terms new members to replace those members whose period of office is about to expire.

14. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the Implementation and Compliance Committee:

From the African States:

Mve Beh Jean Hervé (Gabon)

Musa Kuzumila Ngunila (United Republic of Tanzania)

Christopher Kanema (Zambia)

From the Asia-Pacific States:

Abbas Torabi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Itsuki Kuroda (Japan)

Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan)

From the Eastern European States:

Atanas Stoyanov Dishkelov (Bulgaria)

Romana Grizelj (Croatia)

Jelena Kovačević (Montenegro)

From the Latin American and Caribbean States:

Paulina Riquelme (Chile)

Jimena Nieto Carrasco (Colombia)

Meredith Henry-Cumberbatch (Suriname)

From the Western European and other States:

Helga Schrott (Austria)

Anik Beaudoin (Canada)

Karoliina Anttonen (Finland)

15. The Conference of the Parties elected for two terms nine new members of the Committee, from the following countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Gabon, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Montenegro, Suriname, United Republic of Tanzania. The remaining six members were re-elected for one term starting from the closure of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties until the closure of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

16. At its fifth meeting, in accordance with rule 3 of the rules of procedure for the Committee, the Conference of the Parties is to elect for two terms six new members of the Implementation and Compliance Committee to replace those members whose period of office is about to expire. It is to be noted that, pursuant to paragraph 5 of rule 3, a member is not to serve for more than two consecutive terms. Nominations from each United Nations regional group should be submitted to the secretariat no later than the second day of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### **C. Members of the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme**

17. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of rule 3 of its rules of procedure,<sup>1</sup> the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme is to consist of 10 members. Each of the five United Nations regions is to nominate two members through their respective Bureau representatives.

18. In accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 3, the first members of the Board were to serve until the third meeting of the Conference of Parties. Thereafter, the members were to be nominated every two years by regional groups and their membership confirmed by the Conference of the Parties. To that end, the two nominations from each United Nations regional group should be submitted to the secretariat no later than the penultimate day of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. No member is to serve on the Governing Board for more than two consecutive terms.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.2/9, annex II.

19. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties confirmed the following members of the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme:

From the African States:

Olubunmi Olusanya (Nigeria)

Anne Nakafeero (Uganda)

From the Asia-Pacific States:

Satyendra Kumar (India)

Wasantha Dissanayake (Sri Lanka)

From the Eastern European States:

Mario Vujić (Croatia)

Suzana Andonova (North Macedonia)

From the Latin American and Caribbean States:

Helges Bandeira (Brazil)

Gina Griffith (Suriname)

From the Western European and other States:

Rafael Zubrzycki (Germany)

Andrew Clark (United States of America)

20. The terms of office of the following Governing Board members will expire at the closure of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties: Brazil, Nigeria, Suriname.

21. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties is to confirm, based on the nominations received from the regional groups, 10 members of the Governing Board for the following term, to serve from the closure of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties until the closure of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.