

**WELCOMING ADDRESS**

**OF**

**DR. IR. SITI NURBAYA, M.SC**

**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**AT**

**THE SECOND SEGMENT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF  
THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP-4.2) OF  
THE MINAMATA CONVENTION**

**Bali, 21 March 2022**

***Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme,***

***Rosa Vivien Ratnawati, President of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention,***

***Monika Stankiewicz, the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention Secretariat,***

***Ministers, Ambassadors, distinguished delegates, and colleagues***

Selamat Pagi or a very good morning,

Welcome to Indonesia,

We are glad, that you finally make it safe, here in Bali, for the Second Segment of the Fourth Conference of Parties of the Minamata Convention.

As this is the first COP held outside Geneva, I wish to reiterate our joint commitments, in recognizing mercury as a global concern, and in working collectively to make mercury history.

What we decide in the coming days, and what we will do, when we return to our countries, after the meeting, is critical to the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

***Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Less than five years ago, after its entry into force, our Minamata family has grown from fifty to over one hundred and thirty member parties, which is almost tripled in numbers. This is good news, and we are expecting more countries in the world to join our global efforts in addressing mercury problems.

Nevertheless, these numbers also bring challenges of its own. These challenges take the form, among others, the first evaluation of our Convention. How far we would go to implement and evaluate on what we have agreed? How do we measure it? and how effective will the evaluation be?

It is unfortunate that we did not resolve this issue in the last COP. We tried but the differences were bigger than the similarities. Hopefully, by being here in Bali, we will all get new perspectives, and finally able to abridge our differences and expand our similarities.

On that positive tone, allow me to congratulate and extend my appreciation to all member parties, for your high rate of participation in delivering the first full cycle of national reports. With over 70 percent compliance rate, I am confident that we can mirror the success of our national reporting obligation, on to the issue of effectiveness evaluation in our coming COP.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Other challenges that the Minamata Family has to address is the illegal trade of mercury. International reports have shown alarming increase of mercury global illegal trade. Most notably used in the ASGM sector.

Indonesia, being one of the affected countries, finds it necessary to work together to combat the illegal trade of mercury, given, among others, the transboundary nature of its activities, and the obvious negative impacts of mercury use, both to human and the environments.

Against this backdrop, we have proposed a non-binding initiative called the “Bali Declaration to combatting illegal trade of mercury”. It is a non-binding political declaration with three objectives, namely short-term, mid-term and long-term goals. Consecutively on the goals, we aim to mainstream the issue and its urgency, followed by cooperation and collaboration, and later, hopefully, a global governance of illegal trade of mercury.

We believe the COP 4, being the first Minamata COP to be held outside Geneva, will serve as a momentous occasion to launch the Bali Declaration, and it will send strong signals to the international community that despite its young age, the Minamata Convention is adaptive and agile in addressing the global challenges of mercury.

Therefore, we seek your kind support on this declaration, and as an outcome of the COP 4.2, we look forward to continue working together to implement them.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The efforts to make mercury history have been carried out globally, including in Indonesia.

In our case, I am happy to share that we are currently conducting our national policy to achieve Indonesia free of mercury by 2030. This national policy focuses on four priority sectors, namely manufacturing, energy, ASGM and health sectors. It also includes the issuance of technical regulations in ministerial level and integrated implementation with the local government.

In ensuring correct implementation of the policy, we also provide consultation and coaching to the local government, such as

- a. managing data and information on mercury level, status and projection,
- b. recovery programs for mercury contaminated lands, and
- c. pilot projects of free-mercury-gold-processing technology,
- d. as well as carrying out research and campaign to end the use of mercury.

On this occasion, allow me to express my gratitude for the support of various stakeholders, especially, donor countries, agencies and international financial institutions, that have supported Indonesia's commitment in reducing and eliminating the use of mercury, including

- a. construction of an integrated non-mercury gold processing facilities,
- b. socio-economic transformation to small-scale gold miners, and
- c. phase-out of mercury medical devices.

Specifically, through GOLD-ISMIA project in 3 locations, we have successfully reduced mercury emitted/released into the environment from ASGM as much as 11.6 tonnes.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Before closing, I wish to extend my appreciation to all delegates, for your participation and contribution in the first and the second segments of our COP.

Also, I would like to recognize the hard work of the Bureau Members, the Secretariat, and the Indonesian team, for their excellent coordination and organization of our COP, amidst the challenging situation.

And lastly, I wish you all a productive conference. Do enjoy the beautiful scenery of Bali, and please take good care of yourself, especially in anticipating the sleepless nights of the coming days of the conference.

Let's mark this COP 4.2 by multiplying our efforts for a healthy world where all men, women, children and our future generation can live free from the harmful effects of mercury.

Together, Let's Make Mercury History.

Thank you.

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