

## UNEP and Minamata: Journey towards a Mercury-free Planet: *side event at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention*

Virtual, Wednesday, 3 November 2021, 5:45-6:45 pm (CET)

### Introduction

In 2022, UNEP will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its creation at the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference). As part of commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the proposed side event will shed light on how, through UNEP, Member States have given birth to the Minamata Convention in response to a growing concern over the impact of mercury emissions on human health and the environment, thereby paving the way for an environment free of the harmful effects of mercury. The entry into force of the Minamata Convention is one of the key milestones in the history of UNEP and international environmental governance that could provide insights into how UNEP and the international community could further catalyse joint action to address the triple environmental crises – namely, climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and pollution and waste. In the side event, panellists are expected to share views on further strengthening the role of UNEP in identifying emerging environmental problems and mobilizing political action to address them using the Minamata Convention as an example and against the backdrop of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### Expected result

The side event is expected to raise awareness on the important role of UNEP in safeguarding the environment and human health including by making the scientific case for creating legal instruments such as the Minamata Convention and supporting their implementation across the world. The event is also expected to raise the profile of the Minamata Convention as a landmark in environmental governance.

### Proposed format and programme

Moderated panel discussion (moderator: Marianne Bailey, Programme Officer, Minamata Convention secretariat)

- Juan Bello, Coordinator for UNEP@50, UNEP
- Yasuhisa Kitagawa, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Kenya
- Sam Adu-Kumi, Director, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
- Sofia Tingstorp, Stockholm+50 Secretariat, Ministry of the Environment, Sweden
- Dickson Ho, Youth representative

The target audience includes all the participants, from governments and major groups and stakeholders, attending the Minamata COP.

### Contact

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