



Implementation and Compliance Committee
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Fifth meeting
Geneva, 7 – 9 March 2023
Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Organizational matters: organization of work

Annotations to the provisional agenda¹

Introduction

1. Article 15 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury establishes an Implementation and Compliance Committee as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.
2. Pursuant to the Committee's rules of procedure, the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-4) elected for two terms nine new members of the Implementation and Compliance Committee to replace those members whose period of office was about to expire. The current members of the Implementation and Compliance Committee are:

From Africa:

- Mr. Mve Beh Jean Hervé (Gabon)**
- Mr. Musa Kuzumila Ngunila (Tanzania)**
- Mr. Christopher Kanema (Zambia)

From the Asia-Pacific States:

- Mr. Abbas Torabi (Iran)**
- Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan)
- Mr. Ahmad Al Qatarnah (Jordan)

From the Central and Eastern European States:

- Ms. Dubravka Marija Krekovic (Croatia)
- Mr. Atanas Stoyanov Dishkelov (Bulgaria)**
- Ms. Jelena Kovačević (Montenegro)**

From the Latin American and Caribbean States:

- Ms. Paulina Riquelme (Chile)
- Ms. Jimena Nieto Carrasco (Colombia)**
- Ms. Meredith Henry-Cumberbatch (Suriname)**

From the Western European and other States:

* UNEP/MC/ICC.5/1.

** Members elected at COP-4.

¹ This document has not been formally edited.

Ms. Anik Beaudoin (Canada)**

Ms. Helga Schrott (Austria)**

Ms. Karoliina Anttonen (Finland)

3. The present document sets out annotations to the provisional agenda for the fifth meeting of the Committee (document UNEP/MC/ICC.5/1).

4. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of Article 15, the Committee may consider issues on the basis of: written submission from a party with respect to its own compliance; national reports in accordance with Article 21; and a request emanating from the Conference of the Parties. However, no written submission nor request were received by the time of finalising these documents. Therefore, the Committee is not expected to consider any written submission from a Party with respect to its own compliance nor any request from the Conference of the Parties during its fifth meeting. Any written submission received by the secretariat in the future will be duly notified to the Committee. During its fifth meeting, the Committee is therefore expected to consider issues on the basis of the full national reports that were due by parties by the end of 2021.

5. As provided for under rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the provisional agenda also includes items on the work programme, the dates, duration and venue of the Committee's next meeting, as well as any other matters.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

6. The meeting will be chaired by Ms. Paulina Riquelme (Chile), Chair of the Committee, while Ms. Itsuki Kuroda (Japan) will serve as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur for the meeting. Both officers were elected at the third meeting of the Committee, held online from 7 to 8 June 2021,² and will remain in office until the closure of this meeting of the Committee.

7. Pursuant to its rules of procedure (rule 9), meetings of the Committee shall be held in person at least once during each intersessional period between ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, unless otherwise decided by the Committee. The fifth meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee will be held in-person in Geneva from 7 to 9 March 2023. The meeting will be formally opened at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 7 March 2023 by the Chair of the Committee, Ms. Paulina Riquelme.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

8. The Committee may wish to consider and adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (document UNEP/MC/ICC/5/1), which has been prepared by the secretariat in agreement with the Chair, as per the rules of procedure (rule 16).

(b) Election of officers

9. Pursuant to its rules of procedure (rule 9), unless otherwise decided by the Committee, meetings of the Committee shall be held in person at least once during each intersessional period between ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Furthermore, rule 4 of the rules of procedure states that the Committee shall elect, during each in-person meeting, a Chair and a Vice-Chair who shall act as Rapporteur, from among the members present at the meeting, with due consideration to equitable geographical representation based on the five United Nations regional groups. These officers shall commence their term of office at the closure of the in-person meeting at which they are elected and remain in office until the closure of the following in-person meeting of the Committee. These are to maintain coherence across two terms. The offices of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall normally be subject to rotation among the United Nations regional groups.

In light of the above, the Committee is expected to elect the officers who will serve for the period commencing at the end of the meeting until the closure of the following in-person meeting. In so doing, it may note that the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will elect five new members

² See document UNEP/MC/COP.4/15/Rev.1- "Report on the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury" available at <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/documents/report-work-implementation-and-compliance-committee-minamata-convention-mercury-1>

for two terms. For continuity's sake, the Committee may wish to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair amongst the new members that were elected for two terms by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and whose terms will therefore continue after the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

(c) Organization of work

10. It is suggested that the Committee meets from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on 7 and 8 March 2023, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on 9 March, subject to adjustments as necessary. A list of documents prepared for the meeting is available in the annex to the present note.

Item 3

National reporting pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention

1. Article 21 of the Convention requires that each Party reports to the Conference of the Parties, through the secretariat, on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of this Convention, and on the effectiveness of such measures and the possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention, as per the reporting format adopted in decision MC-1/8.

2. The Committee considered the preliminary review of the first full reports prepared by the secretariat (UNEP/MC/ICC/4/3) at its fourth meeting, which was held online on 13 and 14 September 2022.³ The preliminary review was based on the secretariat's initial review of the submitted national reports and based on national reports received by 15 June 2022. The preliminary report provided information on the four recurrent questions in Article 3 and Article 11, as well as responses received to Article 13. After consideration of the preliminary review, the Committee decided, *inter alia*, to come back to certain issues at its next meeting, in particular with respect to Articles 3 and 11; requested the secretariat to follow up with parties to seek additional clarification and information in particular on "informal" primary mercury mining, as well as the trade consent forms and other suitable information; and further requested some work from the secretariat on the reporting format and reporting guidance in a number of areas for consideration of the Committee at the meeting in 2023.

3. For the fifth meeting of the Committee, the secretariat prepared its full report of the national reports for the reporting period 16 August 2017 to 31 December 2022. The report (UNEP/MC/ICC/5/2) provides the Committee with information on the reporting performance of parties, and also details the secretariat's findings and comments on each of the forty-three questions, and parts C, D and E of the reporting format. The report contains annex I that details the review of responses to the questions for articles 3-12, and annex II that details the review of responses for the questions for articles 13-19. The report also presented to the Committee options for consideration of actions. This report is further supported by two information documents, namely UNEP/MC/ICC/5/INF.1 to give the Committee an updated overview of all information and submissions received by the secretariat (ratifications, notifications, Minamata Convention initial assessments, national action plans, and national implementation plans), and UNEP/MC/ICC/5/INF.2 to provide summary tabulations of all responses received for the full national reports.

Item 4

Work programme of the Implementation and Compliance Committee for 2024-2025

4. The Committee may wish to discuss its future work programme. The Committee may also wish to consider the financial implications of its planned work. To support discussions on this item, the Secretariat prepared a document containing possible elements of a draft work programme (document UNEP/MC/ICC/5/3).

Item 5

Date, duration and venue of the sixth meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee

5. The Committee may wish to consider the date, duration and venue of its next meeting. In accordance with its rules of procedure, unless it decides otherwise, the Committee shall meet in person at least once between each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (rule 9). The Committee may wish to consider whether to hold an online meeting, in addition to the in-person one, between the

³ See document UNEP/MC/COP.4/4 "Report on the fourth meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury" available at <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/documents/report-fourth-meeting-implementation-and-compliance-committee-minamata-convention-mercury>

fifth and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Committee may hence wish to note that the Conference of the Parties will hold its fifth meeting from 30 October to 3 November 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is scheduled to be held in 2025.

Item 6

Other matters

6. The Committee may wish to consider other matters.

Item 7

Adoption of the report

7. The Committee will be invited to consider requesting the rapporteur of the meeting to prepare, with the support of the secretariat, the draft report of the meeting and to circulate it to the Committee for its adoption by electronic means following closure of the meeting.
8. The final report will be submitted to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for information.

Item 8

Closure of the meeting

9. It is expected that the Committee will conclude its work by 1 p.m. on 9 March 2023.

Annex

List of documents prepared for the fifth meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee

- UNEP/MC/ICC/5/1 – Provisional agenda
 - UNEP/MC/ICC/5/1/Add.1 – Annotations to the provisional agenda
 - UNEP/MC/ICC/5/2 – National reporting pursuant to Article 21: Report on responses submitted by Parties for the first full national reports (reporting period: 16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020, that were due by 31 December 2021)
 - UNEP/MC/ICC/5/3 – Possible elements of a draft work programme
 - UNEP/MC/ICC.5/INF/1 – Information provided by the parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
 - UNEP/MC/ICC.5/INF/2 – National reporting pursuant to Article 21: Summary tables of the responses received for the first full reporting period (16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020) by 7 February 2023
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