

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

24 to 29 September 2017, Geneva - Switzerland

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Overview of the Minamata Convention On Mercury

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

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Meeting on the Global Monitoring Project on Mercury
Rome, 13 and 14 February 2018



Highlights of the Convention

- **Preamble** – sets background for the Convention, establishes previous relevant decision, cooperative actions
- **Objective (article 1)** – to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury
- **Definitions (article 2)** – sets out definitions used in more than one Article of the Convention. Some articles include definitions specific to that article



Highlights of the Convention

- **Articles can be divided into four main categories :**
- **Operational articles** - describe the obligations on Parties which will reduce anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds to the environment
- **Support to Parties** - financial resources, capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer, implementation and compliance committee
- **Information and awareness raising**, including actions which will reduce impacts of mercury
- **Administrative matters**



Operational articles

- **Article 3 – Mercury supply sources and trade**
 - Primary mercury mining controls, including mercury not to be used for ASGM
 - Party to identify stocks exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of supply exceeding 10 metric tons per year
 - Import of mercury only with written consent from the importing Party
- **Article 4, 5 and 6 – Products and Processes and exemptions (Articles 4, 5 and 6)**
 - Each Party shall take measures to not allow manufacture, import or export of mercury added products in part 1 of Annex A after phase-out date (noting exemptions and exclusions)
 - Each Party shall take measures to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in part I of Annex B after the phase-out date (noting exemptions)
 - Parties can register for an exemption from phase-out dates on becoming a Party.



Operational articles

- **Article 7 – Artisanal and small-scale gold mining**
 - All Parties do reduce and where feasible eliminate ASGM
 - Parties with ASGM that is more than insignificant must notify the secretariat and prepare an implement a national action plan
 - NAP to include:
 - National objectives & reduction targets (paragraph 1a)
 - List of worst practices to be eliminated (paragraph 1b)
 - Formalization or regulation of the sector (paragraph 1c)
 - Baseline estimates of the quantities of mercury used and the practices employed (paragraph 1d)
 - Schedule for implementation of the national action plan (paragraph 1k)
 - A series of strategies (paragraphs e to j)
 - Additional strategies to achieve its objectives (paragraph 2)



Operational articles

- **Article 8 – Emissions**

- Controls on new sources – BAT/BEP within 5 years
- Controls on existing sources – options for measures, within 10 years
- Source categories set out in Annex D:
 - Coal-fired power plants
 - Coal-fired industrial boilers
 - Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
 - Waste incineration facilities
 - Cement clinker production facilities
- Can do a national plan
- Inventory required to be prepared and maintained



Operational articles

- **Article 9 – Releases**

- Relevant sources: significant anthropogenic point source of release as identified by a Party that is not addressed in other provisions of this Convention
- Can do a national plan
- Inventory required to be prepared and maintained
- A Party with relevant sources shall take measures to control releases, including one or more of the following listed measures:
 - Release limit values
 - BAT/BEP
 - Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury releases
 - Alternative measures



Operational articles

- **Article 10 – Interim storage**

- Interim storage of mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a Party under this Convention (includes use in ASGM)
- Storage must take into account any guidelines, and be in accordance with any requirements, adopted by the COP

- **Article 11 – Mercury wastes**

- Environmentally sound management of mercury wastes, taking into account the guidelines developed under the Basel Convention and any requirements that the COP adopts
- Recovery, recycling, reclamation or direct re-use only for a use allowed under the Convention or for environmentally sound disposal

- **Article 12 – Contaminated sites**

- Each Party shall endeavour to develop appropriate strategies for identifying and assessing contaminated sites.
- Actions to reduce risks shall be performed in an environmentally sound manner, incorporating, where appropriate, an assessment of the risks to human health and the environment



Support to Parties

- **Article 13 – Financial resources and mechanism**
 - Includes the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and a specific international Programme to support capacity- building and technical assistance.
- **Article 14 – Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer**
- **Article 15 – Implementation and compliance committee**



Information and awareness articles

- **Health aspects (Article 16)**
 - Parties encouraged to promote actions related to public health
 - COP to consult with WHO
- **Information exchange (Article 17)**
 - Parties to facilitate exchange of information
- **Public information, awareness and education (Article 18)**
 - Parties (within capabilities) to promote and facilitate provision of information



Information and awareness articles

- **Research, development and monitoring (Article 19)**

- Parties to endeavour to cooperate to develop and improve (taking into account circumstances and capabilities and building on existing activities);
 - Inventories of use, consumption and emissions and releases
 - Modelling and monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds (population and media)
 - Assessment of impact on human health and the environment
 - Harmonised methodologies
 - Information on environmental cycle, transport, transformation and fate of mercury and mercury compounds
 - Information on commerce and research on technical and economic availability of products, processes, BAT, BEP

- **Implementation plans (Article 20)**

- Parties may develop and executive an implementation plan (not an obligation)



Information and awareness articles

- **Reporting (Article 21)**

- Parties to report to the COP – initial report (short) in 2019, full report in 2021.
- Reporting format covers all articles to a greater or lesser extent

- **Effectiveness evaluation (Article 22)**

- COP to evaluate effectiveness of the Convention, beginning no later than 6 years after entry into force
- COP to initiate establishment of arrangements for providing itself with comparable monitoring data
- Evaluation to be conducted on the basis of available scientific, environmental, technical, financial and economic information, including:
 - Reports provided to the COP on monitoring
 - Reporting under Article 21
 - Information related to information and compliance committee
 - Reporting and information on article 13 and 14



OUTCOMES OF COP1



Forms and guidance adopted by the COP

Art 3	Forms and guidance in relation to mercury supply sources and trade
Art 6	Forms and guidance in relation to exemptions available to a party upon request
Art 7	Guidance on developing a national action plan to reduce, and where feasible, eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining
Art 8	Guidance in relation to emissions (BAT/BEP)



Decisions on technical issues

Further work mandated on:

- Guidelines on the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury and mercury compounds (article 10)
 - Mercury waste thresholds (article 11)
 - Development of guidance on the management of contaminated sites (article 12)
 - Effectiveness evaluation (article 22)
 - Mercury emissions resulting from the open burning of waste
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- ❑ Experts nominated for effectiveness evaluation, waste and contaminated sites
 - ❑ Reporting timing and format agreed



Decisions on issues related to support for implementation

The Conference of the Parties adopted decisions on:

- Guidance to the Global Environment Facility
- The Specific International Programme
- Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer on the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Membership of the Implementation and Compliance Committee
- Secretariat
- Programme of Work and Budget for the Secretariat



NEXT STEPS – TECHNICAL ISSUES

- Effectiveness evaluation – face to face meeting to be held 5 – 9 March 2018
- Guidelines on interim storage – to be revised by secretariat with input from relevant experts
- Waste – further work involving experts
- Contaminated sites – to be drafted by secretariat with input from relevant experts.

Storage, waste and contaminated sites are open-ended groups of experts, additional experts could come forward and participate in the work from this date.

Effectiveness evaluation has a more limited number of experts and observers. Meeting participants are already engaged in the work, however there may be opportunities for input to report at a later stage.



EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION MEETING

For monitoring, key questions are:

- a. Outline of the types of data that could be comparable on a global basis
- b. Review of information on existing monitoring programs
- c. Assessment of to what extent the information reviewed under (b) meets the needs for monitoring
- d. Consideration of cost-effectiveness, practicality, feasibility and sustainability, global coverage, and regional capabilities in identifying opportunities for future enhancements to monitoring
- e. Identification of available modelling capabilities to assess changes in global mercury levels within and across different media
- f. Identification of sources of data that can be used for establishing a baseline
- g. Identification of how monitoring activities may contribute to the development of the effectiveness evaluation framework



EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION MEETING

For effectiveness evaluation framework, key questions are:

- a. Identifying the steps required to undertake effectiveness evaluation
- b. Suggesting a process flow or schedule for the effectiveness evaluation planning
- c. Identifying arrangements for conducting the effectiveness evaluation
- d. Drafting terms of reference for the committee developing the first effectiveness evaluation
- e. Assessing potential approaches to the development of performance indicators



NEXT STEPS – SUPPORT ISSUES

Establishment of the Specific International Programme:

- ☐ seek submissions of proposals for activities under the SIP
- ☐ assess and approve submission
- ☐ operationalize the programme and distribute funding

Develop programme of capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer activities, including supporting ongoing implementation activities

Implementation and Compliance Committee activities

Planning for COP 2 – 19 to 23 November 2018, Geneva

