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7 September 2020

Subject: Launching the Minamata Online

Dear Madam/Sir,

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the postponements of in-person workshops and other activities worldwide, the Minamata Secretariat has been strengthening the collaboration and support to parties and stakeholders through digital means.

Today I am pleased to announce the launching of [Minamata Online](#), a new series of digital engagement devised to provide a better understanding of the Convention's provisions, as well as policy and scientific aspects. Targeted to government officials, scientists, NGOs and other stakeholders, the sessions are arranged according to three streams: implementation support and review, mercury science, and COP4 preparations.

In this initiative, we are building on the pilot series of online information sessions on intersessional work regarding products and processes and the 2020 deadline for mercury-added products, as well as our participation in the GENeva Environment Dialogues where we discussed the impact of the pandemic on the global environmental agenda and the necessity of navigating this critical time through the further development of digital learning and meetings.

As a result, *Minamata Online* is poised to be a source of knowledge and support, especially to the parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Starting on Tuesday 15 September, over thirteen sessions will delve into a particular topic on a weekly basis until December, from national reporting to mercury trade, mercury emissions, waste and contaminated sites, as well as the mercury material flows, multimedia modelling of global mercury movement and the socio-economic impacts of mercury pollution. One session will also mark the 365-day countdown to COP4.

These thirteen sessions, at times developed in collaboration with the Global Mercury Partnership (GMP), the International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP) and the Geneva Environment Network (GEN), are set for 1-1.5 hours each, some of which will be held twice on the same day to accommodate different time zones. Given the specificity of the topics, each session will be announced individually, and registration will be available on the Minamata Convention website, where I invite you to [see an overview of the season's calendar](#) and join us.

Sharing knowledge and best practices has always been at the very heart of the Minamata Convention and I, and the entire Secretariat are honoured to carry this spirit to the digital space and help to build back better. I thank you once again for your commitment and support, and I look forward to seeing you on *Minamata Online*.

Yours sincerely,



Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary

To: Governments through their official channels of communication to the UN Environment Programme
Cc: National Focal Points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury
Permanent Missions to the UN Environment Programme and to the UN in Geneva