



WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN SUPPORT FOR THE RATIFICATION AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY NAIROBI, KENYA, 24 TO 25 MARCH 2015

HELD BACK-TO-BACK WITH THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE 2015 MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

1. The African regional workshop in support for the ratification and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the regional preparatory meeting for the 2015 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, were held back to back at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya, from 24 to 27 March 2015. These two events were organized by the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, with support from UNEP and the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Kenya, thanks to the generous contributions of the European Union, Norway and Switzerland.
2. The meetings were attended by 166 participants, including representatives from 43 African country, 8 intergovernmental organizations, 4 non-governmental organizations and 4 Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres. The following African countries were represented: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The full list of participants is available in Annex 2.
3. The aim of the regional workshop on the Minamata Convention was to support countries in their efforts towards ratification and effective implementation of the Convention, building on the experiences of the previously conducted sub-regional workshops organized by the Interim Secretariat. The workshop was an opportunity to report on the progress to date and to find potential areas of cooperation within the region, as well as to take stock of the outcome of the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee as well as prepare for its seventh session and the first Conference of the Parties to be held upon entry into force of the Convention. The workshop also included a joint Minamata and BRS session to discuss common topics between the four conventions, including financial resources for chemicals and wastes.
4. During the workshop, in addition to the presentations by the Interim Secretariat, a number of stakeholders shared their experiences, including participating countries who were invited to report on their progress towards ratifying and implementing the Convention. The full programme of the workshop is available in Annex 1. Additional information, including UNEP presentations for download, is available at www.mercuryconvention.org.

Background information:

In its resolution on arrangements in the interim period, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury, held from 10 to 11 October 2013 in Kumamoto, Japan called upon States and regional economic integration organizations to take, as soon as possible, the domestic measures necessary to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible. The Conference further requested the Executive Director of UNEP to facilitate activities at regional and country level to support implementation during the interim period in an effective and efficient manner. The series of workshops conducted by UNEP to assist countries in their process towards ratification and early implementation of their obligations under the Convention respond to this request.



ANNEX 1 – WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN SUPPORT FOR THE RATIFICATION AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY
NAIROBI, KENYA, 24 TO 25 MARCH 2015

TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015	
8:00 – 9:00	<i>Registration</i>
Item 1. Joint opening of the Minamata regional workshop and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm regional preparatory meeting	
9:00 – 9:30	➤ Opening and welcome
9:30 – 10:30	➤ Minamata workshop objectives and organization of work ➤ Outcome of previous sub-regional workshops for the Minamata Convention
Item 2. Outcome of INC6, preparations for INC7 and other steps towards COP1	
10:30 – 12:00	➤ Main outcomes of INC6 ➤ Update on the work of the group of technical experts to develop the guidance called for in Article 8 (Emissions) ➤ Preparations for INC7 and other steps towards COP1 ➤ Other relevant intersessional work and decisions
12:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
Item 3. Moving towards effective implementation of the Minamata Convention	
14:00 – 16:00	➤ Cooperation and measures taken at the national level to prepare for implementation
16:00 – 17:00	➤ Enabling activities supported by the GEF: progress to date and early lessons drawn from Minamata Initial Assessments and National Action Plans on Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining
17:00 – 18:00	➤ Highlights of the Convention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational articles ○ Support to Parties ○ Information and awareness raising ○ Administrative matters
18:15	<i>Reception hosted by the Government of Switzerland</i>



WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2015	
Item 3. Moving towards effective implementation of the Minamata Convention – <i>continued</i>	
9:00 – 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cooperation at the regional level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Areas of cooperation identified at sub-regional workshops for the Minamata Convention ○ Ongoing cooperation activities ○ Future opportunities for cooperation in the region
Item 4. The road towards entry into force	
10:45 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession: practical steps and accompanying notifications ➤ Progress in the region and experiences from countries
12:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
Item 5. Contribution from the region to the ad hoc working group of experts on financing	
14:00 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mandate of the ad hoc working group of experts on financing ➤ Views from the region on the work of the ad hoc working group of experts on financing
Item 6. Joint session between the Minamata Convention and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	
15:30 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Facilitating financial resources for chemicals and wastes (Integrated Approach, Special Programme, GEF) ➤ International cooperation and coordination (Minamata Convention, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, SAICM, sustainable development goals) ➤ Waste issues of common concern ➤ Experience at the national and regional level in cooperation and coordination towards implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions
Item 7. Closure of the Minamata regional workshop	
17:00 – 17:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Final remarks and closure

The regional workshop to support the ratification and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury was followed by the regional preparatory meeting for the 2015 meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, held on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 March 2015. For further information on this meeting, please visit

<http://synergies.pops.int/2015COPs/RegionalPreparatoryMeetings/Africa.1920March2015/tabid/4329/language/en-US/Default.aspx>



ANNEX 2 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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FOR THE AFRICAN REGION
NAIROBI, KENYA, 24 TO 27 MARCH 2015

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