



WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN SUPPORT FOR THE RATIFICATION AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, 16 TO 17 APRIL 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 Latin American and the Caribbean 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 Radisson Montevideo Victoria Plaza Hotel in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 14 to 17 April 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 the support of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in Montevideo, Uruguay and thanks to the generous contributions of the European Union, Norway and Switzerland.
2. The meetings were attended by approximately 110 participants, including representatives from 27 Governments of Latin American and the Caribbean countries, 7 intergovernmental organizations, 7 Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, 5 non-governmental organizations and 4 other observers. The following Latin American and Caribbean countries were represented at the workshop: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. 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, to take stock of the outcome of the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and 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 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

REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN SUPPORT FOR THE RATIFICATION AND EFFECTIVE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY
FOR THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, 16 TO 17 APRIL 2015

The regional workshop to support the ratification and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury was preceded 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 14 and Friday 15 April 2015. For further information on this meeting, please visit <http://synergies.pops.int/2015COPs/RegionalPreparatoryMeetings/GRULAC,1415April2015/tabid/4331/!language/en-US/Default.aspx>

THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2015	
8:00 – 9:00	<i>Registration</i>
Item 8. Joint session between the Minamata and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	
9:00 – 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating financial resources for chemicals and wastes (Integrated Approach, Special Programme, GEF) • Cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experiences at the national and regional levels ○ Mandates and practical experiences from the secretariats
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN SUPPORT FOR THE RATIFICATION AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY	
Item 9. Introduction	
11:15 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory remarks • Minamata workshop objectives and organization of work • Outcome of previous sub-regional workshops for the Minamata Convention
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
Item 10. Outcome of INC6, preparations for INC7 and other steps towards COP1	
14:00 – 15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 work and decisions at the global level
15:45 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
Item 11. The road towards entry into force	
16:00 – 18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deposit of the legal instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession: practical steps and accompanying notifications • Progress in the region and experiences from countries



THURSDAY 17 APRIL 2015	
Item 12. Contribution from the region to the ad hoc working group of experts on financing	
9:00 – 11:00	<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
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
Item 13. Moving towards effective implementation	
11:15 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Enabling activities supported by the GEF: Minamata Initial Assessments and National Action Plans on Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Experiences at the national level in measures taken and cooperation to prepare for implementation
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 – 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Cooperation at the regional level:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Examples of ongoing cooperation activities in the region○ Areas of cooperation identified at the Minamata sub-regional workshops and future opportunities for cooperation in the region
Item 14. Closure of the Minamata regional workshop	
17:30 – 18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Final remarks and closure



ANNEX 2 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, 14 TO 17 APRIL 2015

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