Report on the work of the ad hoc group of experts on effectiveness evaluation

Comments from Argentina:

Argentina welcomes the report on the results of the first meeting of the Ad hoc group of experts on the effectiveness evaluation. We agree on the general scope and do not have significant comments to add to the final report.

Nevertheless, Argentina would like to recommend these next considerations for the further work and discussions that will be held by the expert group between the second and the third Minamata Convention COPs if so decided:

• It would be useful that, in the future, the ad hoc group of experts on effectiveness evaluation develops the technical requirements of the environmental monitoring activities in order to guarantee the comparability between the collected data in the different parties and regions, in order to contribute to the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention.

• Besides, Argentina considers that monitoring sites selected by each party should consider the identification of hotspots from unaffected areas in order to differentiate (natural) mercury background levels from contaminated sites. This measure is proposed in order to achieve more accurate results in environmental monitoring practices.

Finally, Argentina considers that the conclusions and recommendations of this group should be taken into account by the Financial Mechanism of the Convention in order to support any activity or project regarding environmental monitoring of mercury. Moreover, information obtained from these initiatives should be reported and collected in order to enhance the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention.
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