

Reference: Minamata/COP2/Nov 2018

20 June 2018

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to invite your Government to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The Conference is scheduled to take place in Geneva, from 19 to 23 November 2018, as decided by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The meeting will be preceded on 18 November 2018 by preparatory meetings of the regional and other groups.

The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties will play an important role in furthering the implementation of the Convention. The meeting will, amongst others, consider the results of intersessional work established by the first meeting as well as unresolved issues referred from the first meeting. Decisions taken at the second meeting will contribute to the ongoing implementation of the Convention and provide further guidance to the secretariat. The second meeting will also offer an opportunity for information sharing and motivation for countries still in the process of ratification. Wide participation from Parties, States not yet Parties and other relevant stakeholders is crucial in determining the future of the Convention and its efficient implementation.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage those countries that have not yet done so to deposit their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the United Nations Secretary-General, at their earliest convenience and no later than 20 August 2018, in order to be Parties of the Minamata Convention at the time of the Conference.

The updated list of deposited instruments can be found on the Convention website at:
mercuryconvention.org/Countries/Parties.

It would be appreciated if the name(s), title(s) and contact details of your designated Government representative(s) to the Conference are sent at your earliest convenience and no later than 19 August 2018 to ensure relevant preparations, in particular with respect to the participation of sponsored participants.

To: All Governments through the official channels of communication with the UN Environment Programme

Copy to: National Focal Points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury
Permanent Missions to the UN Environment Programme
Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva



Logistical and other information relevant to the meeting, including on pre-registration, official nomination, organization of work, credentials for Parties and travel of sponsored participants is included in the attached Annex. For further information on the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat of the Minamata Convention by e-mail at MFA-MinamataMeetings@un.org or consult the website mercuryconvention.org.

We look forward to the participation of your Government in this important meeting as part of your continuous commitment to making mercury history.

Best wishes,

Rossana Silva Repetto
Executive Secretary

Annex – Logistical and other important information concerning the meeting

1. Entry into force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Minamata Convention entered into force on 16 August 2017, the 90th day after the date of deposit of the 50th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. For each State or regional economic integration organization that ratifies, accepts or approves the Convention or accedes thereto after the deposit of this 50th instrument, the Convention will enter into force on the 90th after the date of deposit by such State or regional economic integration organization of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. Hence in order to be Parties of the Minamata Convention at the time of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, countries that have not yet done so should deposit their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Office of Legal Affairs at the UN Headquarters in New York no later than 20 August 2018.

2. Pre-registration and official nomination letter

Pre-registration, including submission of the required documentation, should be completed no later than 19 August 2018 using the online platform that will be available from early July 2018 on at mercuryconvention.org.

Pre-registration dossiers should include an official nomination letter from the National Focal Points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury in the case of Parties, the UN Environment Programme official contact point, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva or to the UN Environment Programme, as well as for sponsored participants, a copy of the national passport identification page.

3. Assistance to representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Financial assistance may be available to support the participation of one participant per eligible developing country and country with economy in transition.

The official nomination letter referred to above should indicate that the individual concerned is the delegate whom the Government has designated to receive financial assistance.

Please note that pursuant to UN travel rules, strict adherence to the 19 August 2018 deadline is required for sponsored participants. It is not possible to guarantee support for and organization of travel for participants nominated after that date.

Instructions on travel arrangements for sponsored participants will be issued following the closure of the registration period. Air travel for sponsored participants will be arranged according to the United Nations regulations and rules, via the most economical means possible in all cases. Please note that changes to air tickets after they have been issued will not be permitted.



Participants are responsible for obtaining their visa for entering Switzerland as well as any necessary transit visa(s).

4. Credentials for Parties to the Minamata Convention

In order to take part in the decision-making process at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Parties to the Minamata Convention are kindly requested that their head of delegation, alternate representatives and advisers must each be accredited in a credential issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. Information regarding any change in the composition of the delegation should be submitted using the same procedure.

Samples of credentials are available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish on the Minamata Convention website at: mercuryconvention.org.

Originals of the credentials shall be submitted to the secretariat no later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting. Governments are invited to submit an advance copy of their credentials, preferably by 1 November 2018, in order to facilitate the clearance process, to:

The Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
United Nations Environment Programme
11 - 13 chemin des Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
E-mail: MEA-MinamataMeetings@un.org

5. Organization of work

The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury will be held at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting will be opened on Monday, 19 November 2018 at 10.00 and is expected to conclude at 18.00 on Friday, 23 November 2018.

The working languages of the meeting will be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Prior to the opening of the meeting, meetings of regional groups may be held, on Sunday, 18 November 2018, from 15:00 until 18:00, with the exact time to be advised by the relevant Bureau member or coordinator.

Official documents and information on practical arrangements will be posted on the Minamata Convention website (mercuryconvention.org) as they become available.

6. Further information

For further information on the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat, by e-mail at MEA-MinamataMeetings@un.org, or consult our website at: mercuryconvention.org.