

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
United Nations Environment Programme
Avenue de la Paix 8-14, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
MEA-minamatasecretariat@un.org

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Subject: Contribution to follow up on the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 November 2018 – Capacity building regional arrangements

Dear Ms Silva Repetto:

In accordance with Decision MC-2/11 on capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer, whereby the Secretariat was requested to collect information from the existing regional, subregional and national arrangements on their capacity-building and technical assistance to support parties in implementing their obligations under the Minamata Convention, I am pleased to inform you about the arrangements conducted within the framework of the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Intergovernmental Network was established in 2016 by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of strengthening the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste, reinforcing sub-regional and regional cooperation and facilitating the exchange of experiences, ensuring cooperation and coordination with agreed international and regional frameworks, as well as improving engagement and communication with other stakeholders.

During 2017-2018, the Network organized a range of initial information exchange activities, including 8 webinars on different priority issues on chemicals and waste, which were joined by more than 400 participants from about 35 countries. One of the webinars was focused on mercury trade, with the support of the Minamata Convention Secretariat.

At the XXI meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-12 October 2018), the *Action plan for regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management 2019-2020 for Latin America and the Caribbean*, was formally adopted through Decision 1 on Chemicals, Marine Litter and Waste Management. The content of the action plan was informed by a comprehensive review of priority issues and cooperation actions for LAC countries.

The Action Plan includes 33 technical cooperation actions within 6 priority topics, including a specific topic on mercury and the Minamata Convention, with a range of priority actions such as the sound management of mercury, use of mercury in ASGM, and control of legal and illegal mercury trade.

We trust that the implementation of this Action Plan, with the support of a range of partners and regional centres, including the support of the Minamata Secretariat, will strengthen the capacity of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to meet the obligations of the Convention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alejandra Acosta', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Alejandra Acosta

Chair of the Steering Committee of the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste for Latin America and the Caribbean

Directorate of Chemical Products and Substances

Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development

Argentina