

Ref.: MC/ES/2020/58

Geneva, 14 December 2020

**Subject:** Update on the intersessional work on effectiveness evaluation: Proposed indicators and monitoring guidance

Dear Madam/Sir,

Further to my earlier communications [MC/ES/2020/17](#) on 21 May 2020, [MC/ES/2020/18](#) on 29 June 2020, and [MC/ES/2020/30](#) on 2 September 2020, I would like to update you further on the intersessional work to implement Decision 3/10 “Arrangements for the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury”.

#### **Intersessional work on the proposed indicators**

Decision [MC-3/10](#) includes the provisions on work on the proposed indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention. The proposed indicators are contained in annex I to the decision. Parties are invited to submit views on the indicators and the Secretariat is requested to compile those views in advance of COP-4. In consultation with the COP-4 Bureau, the Secretariat prepared a [plan of work on indicators](#) with the modalities and timeline for providing and receiving comments so as to assist Parties at COP-4.

In line with the plan of work on the proposed indicators, [information sessions](#) on the indicators were held by the Secretariat on 17 September 2020. In a similar manner as the information session on monitoring guidance held on 10 June 2020, there were two sessions considering different time zones – 10h00-11h00 and 16h00-17h00 CEST.

As next step in the plan of work, Parties and stakeholders were invited to submit initial views and responses to the Secretariat on the proposed indicators by 30 November 2020. The submissions received are collated in this [online workspace on indicators](#) for consideration.

Parties and stakeholders are invited to access the workspace. According to the plan of work, the Secretariat will facilitate an **exchange session** on the received **initial views** and responses by 31 January 2021. This upcoming exchange session is to enable clarifications on the views and responses submitted, additional questions that may have arisen, and other relevant information sharing and exchange on the proposed indicators. This opportunity to exchange is also to assist Parties in their formal preparation of their **views**, as requested by MC-3/10. The deadline for submission to the Secretariat of views of parties is Wednesday, 31 March 2021. Further details on the exchange session will be notified early January 2021.

#### **Intersessional work on developing monitoring guidance**

Decision MC-3/10 also requested the Secretariat to advance the work by securing services for drafting, among others, guidance on monitoring. The Secretariat, in consultation with the COP-4 Bureau, prepared a [roadmap for developing monitoring guidance](#). In line with the roadmap, Parties and stakeholders were invited to comment on the draft annotated outline developed by the Secretariat. The annotated outline of the guidance document, finalized taking into account the comments received, is available on the [Convention website](#). The Secretariat, supported by consultants and working with experts identified by Parties and stakeholders, is currently further developing the draft guidance, through webinars and electronic communication using an [online workspace on monitoring guidance](#). Whereas draft guidance



was planned to be posted on the website by 15 January 2021 according to the roadmap, it is now planned to be posted by 31 January for comments to be submitted by Wednesday, 31 March 2021.

I thank you in advance for your contribution to the intersessional work on the effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention and your commitment to [#MakeMercuryHistory](#).

Yours sincerely,

*Monika Stankiewicz*

Monika Stankiewicz  
Executive Secretary

To: Governments through their official channels of communication to the UN Environment Programme;  
National Focal Points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Cc: Permanent Missions to the UN Environment Programme and to the UN in Geneva;  
Members of the Bureau of the fourth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury;  
Members of the Implementation and compliance committee to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.