

Ref: MC/ES/2021/19

18 February 2021

Subject: Update on the intersessional work on effectiveness evaluation: Proposed indicators and draft 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, MC/ES/2020/30 on 2 September 2020 and MC/ES/2020/58 on 14 December 2021, I would like to update you further on the intersessional work to implement Decision MC-3/10 "Arrangements for the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury".

Intersessional work on the proposed indicators

Following the [Plan of work](#) on the proposed indicators, the Secretariat facilitated an Exchange Session among Parties on the initial views submitted with the first part convening on Tuesday, 2 February and the second part convening on Thursday, 4 February 2021.

At the time of this **Exchange Session**, ten Parties had submitted their initial views, namely Canada, the EU, Iran, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Norway, Qatar, Tanzania and the US. The submitting Parties were invited to present their submissions to the participants of the Exchange Session. Representatives from thirty-two Parties participated in the Exchange Session. The presentations were followed by exchanges among Parties, including to ask clarifying questions, to reflect on the submissions and on initial views expressed. At the conclusion of the Exchange Session, Parties requested the Secretariat to produce a compilation of the initial views to facilitate Parties' further considerations of the proposed indicators. The Secretariat is pleased to inform that the requested [compilation of initial views](#) received thus far is available on the [online workspace on indicators](#). The compilation is focused on the specific comments and views received to the specific proposed indicators. Kindly refer to the original submissions on the online workspace for Parties' introductory and overarching comments, and any other context or perspective that the Party included as part of its submission on the effectiveness evaluation as a whole and/or specific parts of it.

Furthermore, at the February Exchange Session Parties requested the Secretariat to facilitate an additional opportunity to exchange. Following coordination with the BRS and SAICM Secretariats on calendars, the Secretariat has identified **Thursday, 4 March 2021 (13:00 to 15:00 Geneva time)** for the **additional Exchange Session**. [Kindly register](#) on our website to participate. May we also encourage any Parties that have not yet submitted initial views, but wish to do so, to kindly send their submissions to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience. Any additional submissions will be uploaded on the online workspace.

Lastly, in addition to the compilation of initial views, the Secretariat also prepared an initial [note on information sources](#) for proposed indicators as supplementary information as per the Plan of work. This note is also available on the online workspace.

Intersessional work on developing monitoring guidance

Regarding the guidance on monitoring for effectiveness evaluation, the Secretariat has been working with consultants following the [roadmap](#) to draft the guidance, with input from experts identified by Parties and stakeholders. Thematic online sessions with experts were convened in November and December



2020, and the draft chapters of the guidance were posted on the [online workspace on monitoring guidance](#) in December 2020 for comments and input from the experts.

Considering the nature of the comments received, which included requests for further interactive discussion, and also considering that a face-to-face consultation meeting envisaged for May-June 2021 will not be possible, the Secretariat has revised the roadmap as attached.

The zero-draft will be posted on the [web page](#) on intersessional work shortly, with a plan for additional online sessions to be held in March. Identification of experts to contribute to this process, in addition to [those who have been identified](#), would be welcome. Identified experts will receive invitations to the online sessions. Comments from Parties and stakeholders on the first draft will be invited from 15 April to 31 May 2021.

I thank you for your work on the implementation 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

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

Attn: Revised roadmap for developing monitoring guidance



Revised roadmap for developing monitoring guidance

Indicative timeline	Action
Starting in May 2020	As a first step, the Secretariat collects information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information and lessons learnt about the existing monitoring guidance and their use for effectiveness evaluation under other MEAs. - Information on existing global, regional and national monitoring networks, including sampling, sample analysis, data handling, statistical analysis and reporting. The collected information will be stored in an online web-based workspace.
Late May 2020	The Secretariat will advertise a call for consultants to develop elements of the draft guidance.
By 30 May 2020	The Secretariat develops a draft annotated outline of the guidance, taking into consideration the draft structure set out in UNEP/MC/COP-3/INF/15 and using the collected information. The draft annotated outline will be posted on the website for comments. Submission of technical information on sampling, chemical analysis, data handling, statistical analysis etc will also be invited.
Early June 2020	The Secretariat issues a call for interest in contributing to the drafting of the guidance on the Convention website. Parties and stakeholders are invited to identify experts and scientists to contribute to the drafting.
Early June 2020	The Secretariat makes itself available to present the draft annotated outline to interested parties and stakeholders.
By 31 July 2020	Parties and stakeholders submit their input on the annotated outline. The input received will be posted on the web-based workspace.
Early August 2020	The Secretariat will further develop the draft annotated outline taking into account the comments, and convening informal consultation as needed.
By 15 August 2020	The Secretariat will post the annotated outline on the website.
By 15 August 2020	Parties and stakeholders identify experts and scientists interested in contributing to the drafting of the guidance.
August 2020	The Secretariat will collect further technical information on sampling, chemical analysis, data handling, statistical analysis etc., in addition to the information already collected by the Secretariat and stored in the web-based workspace.
Early September	The first webinar of the identified experts and scientists is convened.
September – December 2020	The Secretariat and the consultants develop elements of guidance through thematic online meetings of identified experts and scientists. Thematic meetings of relevant identified experts and scientists may be convened as needed.
By 20 February 2021	The Secretariat posts a zero draft of the guidance on the website .
March 2021	The Secretariat convenes additional round of thematic online meetings of identified experts and scientists to further develop the draft guidance. Parties may identify additional experts to contribute to the finalization of the guidance.
By 15 April 2021	The Secretariat posts a first draft guidance for comments.
By 31 May 2021	Parties and stakeholders submit comments on the draft guidance.
June 2021	The Secretariat further revises the draft guidance taking into account the comments received, in cooperation with the consultants as appropriate. Issues that require attention of COP-4 may be identified.
July 2021	Draft guidance document finalized for processing as COP-4 document. The COP document may include issues that require COP-4 attention.