



REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING
BUREAU OF MINAMATA CONVENTION COP1 AND COP2

Friday, 27 April 2018

13:00 to 15:00 Geneva time by teleconference

1. Opening and welcome by President Marc Chardonens

Mr. Marc Chardonens welcomed the Bureau members to the teleconference. During the call, all Bureau members were able to connect for at least some of the teleconference, although a few members had to be reconnected periodically. The President then introduced the agenda for the teleconference which was adopted without change.

2. Update on secretariat issues by the Executive Secretary (including additional contributions, new Parties, new premises, staffing, others)

President Chardonens introduced Ms. Rossana Silva Repetto, who has been appointed on an initial temporary basis as the new Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, pending permanent arrangements to be agreed upon regarding the secretariat. She had taken up her position as of 3 April, with a one-year appointment. He indicated he was very glad that she has taken up this leading role in the Secretariat, and was very much looking forward to working with her. He noted that the appointment had taken a significant length of time, and further noted that other staff were not yet on board. Mr. Chardonens indicated that the Presidency is very keen to have a well-functioning and strong secretariat, and was confident that this would be the case under Ms. Silva-Repetto's leadership. He expressed his thanks to Rossana, and expressed the sincere thanks of the Presidency to Mr. Jacob Duer for his work as the Principal Coordinator of the interim Secretariat, including the excellent leadership in steering the work of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The Executive Secretary provided an update on the work in setting up the secretariat, noting that she had taken on aspects of this work before leaving her previous position in Nairobi. She indicated that the Minamata Secretariat posts have been created, and that the trust funds required for contributions have also been established.

The Executive Secretary provided an update on the status of contributions, noting that the information on all contributions was published on the Minamata Convention website in line with the financial rules adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. She indicated that, in addition to the invoices for assessed contributions sent out last November, invoices have now been issued to the new Parties. For the voluntary Special Trust Fund, she indicated that those offering funding have been issued with invoices, however at this time not all pledges had yet been paid. For the voluntary Specific International Programme Trust Fund, she provided an update on the pledges and contributions, noting that the Swiss contribution of one million CH Francs was held in trust pending a satisfactory outcome of the second meeting of the



Conference of the Parties, but the other contributions of approximately seven hundred thousand dollars were available for the programme to start its work.

The Executive Secretary then indicated the new Parties since the last teleconference of the Bureau, namely Belgium, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Lithuania, Nigeria and the United Kingdom.

The Executive Secretary turned then to the practical aspects of arrangements for the secretariat, indicating that the Secretariat is preparing to move into new office space within the International Environment House, where it will occupy offices on the third floor, which also houses the joint secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. She indicated that the co-location would increase even more the cooperation and coordination with the BRS Secretariat, in line with that specified in the text of the Convention, and as indicated in decisions adopted by both the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP1).

In terms of staffing of the secretariat, positions had been created in accordance with the indicative staffing table adopted by COP1, and the process is being undertaken in line with the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules and rules applicable to recruitment. She noted that there were ten positions established to be funded from within the General Trust Fund, with two positions to be established from the support costs generated by contributions. At this stage, the programme support costs have not yet been generated, and she had requested the Executive Director to provide support to enable the creation of these two posts. This request has been supported by the Corporate Services Division. The Executive Secretary further noted that some posts within the Secretariat would be filled directly from staff who served the Interim Secretariat, while other posts would be filled through full recruitment processes.

The President thanked the Executive Secretary for this update, noting that much has been achieved since the last Bureau teleconference. He noted the importance of a functioning team to deliver the work of the Secretariat, and that it is important to have people in place who know the work well. He indicated that the administrative processes within the Organization posed challenges, and that these should not be seen as a reflection of the work of the Executive Secretary. He noted that within his region, one view was that the staffing of the secretariat was an internal UNEP issue, and that the Bureau should not be involved, while others feel that the Bureau should be involved. He noted that it is key that the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties be successful, and that the next few months are key to this success. He further emphasized that the final structure of the secretariat is not yet confirmed, and that this should be reviewed by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2). He then opened the floor for discussion.

One Bureau member indicated that, in their view, the focus needs to be on the preparation COP2, and that it is necessary for the secretariat to have the necessary competence and resources. The Bureau member further indicated that, wherever possible, UNEP could continue to lend the staff on the process until after COP2. The other Bureau members supported this view, indicating that the main concern is the preparation for COP2.

One member indicated that it would be preferable for this preparation for COP2 to be done as it was before, with the staff that supported the secretariat throughout the whole process of the intergovernmental negotiating committees and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The secretariat had done a great job throughout the process, and looked forward to the support of UNEP to ensure COP2 is successful. This view was similarly supported by the other Bureau members.

Another member indicated that their view was that the recruitment should only commence after the second meeting. One Bureau member supported this, and also indicated that there should be a formal contract with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat to specify the support for the second meeting.

Based on these reactions, the President indicated that the Bureau could ask UNEP to continue to provide the full team to the Secretariat to support work up until COP2, and turned to the Executive Secretary to seek her views on this.

The Executive Secretary indicated that, following the clear indication given in the Programme of Work and Budget in regard to the staffing table for 2018-2019, the Minamata Secretariat posts have been created and processes for classification and advertisement were ongoing, as indicated at the beginning of her introductory remarks. The classification process of these posts is about to be finalized and the positions will then be advertised. As soon as the positions are advertised and open, applications can be received and assessed.

The President indicated that very short time is available between now and COP2. The Bureau expressed the importance to keep experienced staff to guarantee continuity. In their view, if there are only new staff, it would be very difficult to achieve the required work. The Bureau members followed up with questions relating to whether UNEP would be able to lend staff until the new staff are on board, as well as whether the current experienced staff will be available.

The Executive Secretary indicated that work was well underway to deliver a successful COP2, and that updates would be provided. She further reiterated that some of the staff from the Interim Secretariat will be laterally moved to some of the positions within the Secretariat, where they will continue to support the Parties and work with the Convention, as they have done thus far.

As a clarifying question, the officer supporting the Presidency asked whether the whole team would be moved across, after which the Executive Secretary indicated that this is not the case. Certain staff are on UNEP funded positions, although they had supported the secretariat to date. Not all, but three positions would be moved across. The President then reiterated the concern of the Bureau that the hiring process would delay the preparatory work for COP2 and exhorted that the new appointments should be done in such a way to ensure the work will be able to proceed well towards COP2. The Bureau agreed that the presidency will convey to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme the strong wish of the Bureau that the current staff of the Secretariat should continue until after the second meeting

3. Preparations for COP2

a. Overview

The Executive Secretary indicated that arrangements were well underway for COP2, including a booking and arrangements at the conference venue, and conference services arrangements in place with UNON in Nairobi. She indicated that, with the meeting at the end of November, certain dates and deadlines were key. As stated in the rules of procedure, the documents for the meeting are to be available six weeks in advance of the meeting, so the secretariat will be making documents available electronically by 8 October 2018 at the

latest. If the Bureau agrees, the past practice of making documents available in advance of this date in English only could continue.

The rules of procedure also indicate that all Parties shall be informed of the date and venue of the meeting at least 60 days before the meeting is due to commence. However, based on the past practice of the secretariat of the intergovernmental negotiating committees and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Parties and Observers will be informed, via a letter from the Executive Secretary in mid-May, or approximately six months in advance of the meeting.

The nomination of participants should be done by 19 August 2018, in particular for funded participants, as this will enable the travel organization to commence, and to be completed within the required deadlines. However, particularly for non-funded participants, nominations would be accepted until quite close to the meeting. Reminders about the need for participants to be officially nominated, and the need for credentials for Parties will be sent out by the Secretariat, however it was anticipated that most Parties are well aware of these responsibilities.

The President thanked the Executive Secretary for this update, and indicated that the plan for COP2 was that it would follow the standard format of a meeting of a Conference of the Parties. There were no plans to establish a Committee of the Whole, and no plans for a High-Level Segment. He requested the Executive Secretary to inform the Bureau of the arrangements with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention for preparatory work and for COP2 by the end of May. He indicated that the detailed plans for contact groups would be discussed in the face-to-face Bureau meeting. This proposal by the President was explicitly supported by one Bureau member and was agreed without change.

b. Provisional Agenda

The President presented the draft provisional agenda for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties as had been circulated to Bureau members in advance of the meeting. There were no comments on the draft, and it was agreed that the secretariat would finalize this provisional agenda, and issue it as a meeting document.

c. Status of document preparation

At the request of the President, the Executive Secretary provided a briefing on the status of document preparation. She indicated that the documents being prepared for COP2 are, in some cases, standalone, while in others are related to ongoing intersessional processes. The intention of the secretariat is, following the agreement of the Bureau to the provisional agenda for COP2, to prepare documents as soon as possible, based on the contributing processes.

She noted the open call for information relating to releases, to capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer, and to the open burning of waste, reminding the Bureau that this call closes on 30 June 2018, and informed the Bureau that the secretariat plans to send out a reminder to all stakeholders to provide submissions. She requested the Bureau to also send out reminders to their regions to encourage submissions of the material in a timely manner. All submissions received during these processes will be posted on the Minamata Convention website.

Those documents relying on other intersessional processes will be prepared as soon as possible, relying on the work of experts or intersessional meetings. It should be noted that the work of the expert groups, including comment phases, are not published on the website, but rather are kept as discussions within the group. The final results will be published, and, where this includes a comment phase by all stakeholders, the comments received in that public comment phase will be posted online.

Regarding the Programme of Work and Budget, the Executive Secretary noted that from the decision adopted at COP1, the secretariat will provide an update on the programme of work and its implementation and, where relevant, cost estimates for actions that have budgetary implications that were not foreseen in the first programme of work but are to be included in proposed draft decisions that had not been adopted by the time of adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget. Based on this decision, no overall revision of the budget was foreseen for COP2. The third meeting of the Conference of the Parties would look at the programme of work and budget for the 2020-2021 biennium.

The President indicated that there was a significant amount of work in the preparation of the documents. One Bureau member asked under which agenda item COP2 would get an update on the arrangements for the review of the Annexes of the Convention for COP2, while another asked for further information about when all documents would be ready.

The Executive Secretary indicated that the documents would all be available online in the six UN languages by 8 October, six weeks before the second meeting. There was an internal deadline for submission to Nairobi of 27 August to ensure enough time for document processing and translation by UNON Conference Services in Nairobi.

The Secretariat provided further clarification that some documents are relying on outside inputs, and will not be able to be prepared in advance, while, for others, work has already commenced or will commence immediately. Further clarification was provided that there was no plan currently to review the Annexes of the Convention in advance of COP2, but that the secretariat is committed to perform the review well in time for the deadline of 5 years and that the secretariat will give the parties an update on the arrangements and timing for the review at COP2.

The President requested that the secretariat make available a table of documents indicating the status of preparation of the documents.

4. Specific COP2 issues

The President noted that several of the items within the provisional agenda for COP2 have specific issues, which would be discussed individually.

a. Global Environment Facility, including the memorandum of understanding

Regarding the work with the Global Environment Facility, the Executive Secretary provided an update. Firstly, she provided an update on the GEF Replenishment, which had been adopted earlier in the week, indicated that there was a replenishment amount of USD 4.1 billion. She highlighted the additional

contributions of the Governments of Switzerland and Japan, and some others, which has served to offset the reduction of funding provided by the government of the United States of America.

She noted that, as known by the Bureau, while the legal requirements of guidance to the GEF was agreed at COP1, no agreement was reached on the memorandum of understanding. Subsequent to COP1 and also during consultations at the GEF's 53rd Council Meeting legal officers from both the UN Environment Programme and from the World Bank in its capacity as GEF Trustee, indicated that the memorandum of understanding was not legally required to continue cooperation.

The GEF Instrument was amended in 2015 establishing that the GEF would serve as one of the entities for the financial mechanism for the Minamata Convention, and there are no specific requirements for an MOU in either the GEF Instrument or the Minamata Convention texts.

The President indicated that this was interesting and important information, and proposed that on this basis the COP could be informed that, as no MOU is needed, a draft should not be put forward, but that rather the focus of the discussion should be on implementation. One Bureau cautioned that it would be preferable to have written legal advice from both the GEF and UNEP before deciding as to whether to consider the MOU at COP2.

The Executive Secretary confirmed that she would be able to obtain the formal legal opinion from UNEP, and would reach out to GEF for a formal legal opinion if requested by the Bureau.

One Bureau member indicated that, while this was in principle acceptable, they would need to consult with their region prior to committing to this decision.

b. Technical issues

- i. Effectiveness evaluation
- ii. Interim storage
- iii. Waste
- iv. Contaminated sites

The President indicated that he understood that the technical work was well underway, and invited the Executive Secretary to provide an update. The Executive Secretary indicated that, regarding the work on effectiveness evaluation the ad hoc expert group has met in Ottawa in March, and was in the process of preparing a draft report, including recommendations. By mid-May, this draft report will be published on the Minamata Convention website for open comments from all stakeholders, after which it will be revised and further reviewed by the experts. The report will be forwarded to COP2 for its consideration.

The guidelines on interim storage are currently available on the Minamata Convention website for comments until 20 June, after which they will be finalized in consultation with the experts and forwarded to COP2 for further consideration and possible adoption.

The work on the establishment of waste thresholds is ongoing, with the second phase of input now closed (as of 15 April 2018). The next document will be circulated to experts in mid-May, with comments due by 15 July, after which the results of the expert work will be finalized for submission to COP2.

For contaminated sites, the document has been circulated to the expert group with comments to be submitted by 20 May. The comments will then be taken into account, and a revised version circulated to experts for comment, after which the document will be finalized for submission to COP2.

One Bureau member sought confirmation that only two of the outputs would have an open comment period, while the others would be limited to the experts. The Executive Secretary confirmed that this was the case, as had been set out in the decisions of COP1. The Bureau meeting took note of the progress to date, and agreed to encourage their regions to participate in the relevant open comment processes, and seek an update at the next meeting.

c. Specific International Programme, including outstanding issues on eligibility

The President turned to the work underway on the Specific International Programme, noting that the first meeting of the Governing Board will be held in Geneva in the next few weeks. He indicated that he looks forward to hearing the outcome of this meeting. For COP2, an additional issue to be considered is the remaining sets of square brackets in both annexes to the decision on the Specific International Programme. He understood that the document to be presented to COP2 would include mainly the report of activities of the Governing Board, the status of funding, and also the issue of the remaining sets of square brackets, which COP2 would be invited to consider. He then invited further comments from the Secretariat.

The Executive Secretary indicated that, in addition to these issues, the Secretariat has recently received the remaining proposal for the membership of the Governing Board. This nomination was under review, and would be finalized with the relevant Bureau members.

One Bureau member enquired as to what other reports on activities will be provided. The Executive Secretary confirmed that other updates would be provided under the items on capacity building, and that in addition the document on the Specific International Programme will provide an update on the projects approved.

d. Secretariat

The President recalled that the decision adopted at the first meeting of the COP welcomed the support of the Government of Switzerland to host the secretariat in Geneva and requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to perform the functions of the secretariat initially through a secretariat located in Geneva. The decision then stated that the Conference of the Parties decides to "review at its second meeting the organizational arrangements, including location and the host country contribution, in accordance with the spirit of the offer of the Government of Switzerland...". Based on that decision (MC-1/11), COP2 will review the organizational arrangements for the secretariat. The President clarified that in case there is no decision at COP2, the current arrangement would continue as "initial" arrangement. He informed that the confirmed offer from the Government of Switzerland for a stand-alone secretariat would be circulated as an information document to COP2.



The President indicated that after lengthy discussions, "COP 1 was able to agree on 3 basic elements: 1. stand-alone secretariat with cooperation with BRS; 2. Geneva as location; 3. Acceptance of the host country contribution offered by Switzerland for a stand-alone secretariat in Geneva. However, no final agreement could be reached on the details of the cooperation between the stand-alone Minamata Secretariat with BRS".

He therefore proposed to focus the discussion at COP 2 on these details rather than re-opening the broader questions around a possible integration of the Minamata Secretariat into the BRS secretariat structure. He also indicated that COP 2 should agree on a fully functional structure of the secretariat and that continuing only on an "initial" solution would not be adequate.

One Bureau member indicated that they felt it was unsatisfactory that there was no permanent decision at COP1, and that this is needed at COP2. The member also indicated that any process necessary to achieve that should be used. Another Bureau member indicated that it was not helpful that the COP1 did not endorse the location in Geneva, and asked about efforts to reach out to other Parties to seek an agreement in advance of COP2.

The officer assisting the President indicated that there had been some exchanges, and efforts would be made to reach out to other Parties in advance. However, in his view, the basic decision to have a stand-alone secretariat in Geneva had been reached, and the second meeting should be less contentious and should focus on the practical arrangements.

Another Bureau member indicated that the issue should be concluded, and the secretariat should be given an assurance that they are in place and have a future. The Presidency should therefore continue discussions before COP2, and the Bureau could facilitate such discussions, with the aim to avoid extended discussions at COP2. Another Bureau member strongly supported these views, and indicated that it was crucial for the decision to be taken at COP2. In the interests of avoiding the same kind of discussion at the second meeting as occurred during the first, they considered it important for intersessional discussions to be held as needed, and would support such discussions in any way necessary.

The President welcomed the support. He indicated that the meeting document would set out an explanation of the decision taken at COP1, and reference the revised offer from Switzerland as communicated to the Executive Director of UNEP in a letter of last December 2017 from the President of the Swiss Confederation. The officer supporting the Presidency highlighted the benefits of thinking together, and proposed that he would reach out to the JUSSCANNZ to seek indications of whether the discussion is likely to focus on the concrete arrangements of a stand-alone secretariat in Geneva. He believes that such an approach would be forward looking and constructive. He asked all Bureau members to undertake similar consultations in their regions, and provide information prior to the summer break to see what additional work may be needed.

One Bureau member then enquired about two issues to be considered, being the location and the issue of integration. The discussions at COP1 merged the two issues, however, the Bureau member enquired as to whether it is now understood what the focus of the discussion at COP 2 would be. The officer supporting the Presidency indicated that at COP1 agreement was reached on three elements: Geneva, stand-alone and

CHF 1 million host country contribution. The second meeting would thus only be considering the details of delivery and would ideally not reopen the three elements of COP1.

Another Bureau member indicated that the first step would be to check with each region whether the understanding put forward by the officer supporting the Presidency was a common understanding, and, if so, discussions could proceed on the more detailed organizational issues. If there was no common understanding along these lines, a more detailed discussion would be needed.

e. Rules of procedure, in particular the bracketed text in Rule 45, para 3

The President indicated that as the adopted Rules of Procedure include bracketed text in paragraphs 1 and 3 of rule 45, this rule would be presented to COP2 to consider lifting the brackets. No other issues would be put forward. This approach was agreed by the Bureau members.

f. Implementation and Compliance Committee, including the Rules of Procedure and possible Terms of Reference

The President noted that the meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee will be held in Geneva at the end of May this year. The Committee will consider its rules of procedure, which it will present to COP2 for approval, and may also consider further terms of reference. He invited the Executive Secretary to make further comments.

The Executive Secretary described the process for organization of the first meeting of the Committee and its format, which would include an introductory open session, benefiting from the experience of implementation and compliance mechanisms of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements. She indicated that the report of the meeting will be forwarded to COP2, along with the rules of procedure which would be presented for approval, as required by the Convention. She then indicated that, in one region, one member of the Committee has retired, while another member from the same region will not be able to travel to participate in the first meeting. The region will need to nominate another member.

One of the Bureau members from the relevant region indicated that they are seeking replacement members from the Parties. A further update would be provided once there was confirmation from the Parties involved.

g. Open burning

The President indicated that the call for submissions on open burning was still open, and that a compilation of the submissions received would be presented to the second meeting, which would then consider whether further action was needed. One Bureau member indicated that work was underway on the issue, however it would not be completed by the deadline. The Executive Secretary indicated that if information on the ongoing work was made available it could be reflected in the document. There were no further comments on this issue.

5. Regional preparatory meetings for COP2

The President indicated that the regional preparatory meetings in the lead up to COP1 had proved to be very valuable, and had been delivered cooperatively with the BRS secretariat. The Swiss had been supportive of the use of regional preparatory meetings since they began holding them in the preparations for SAICM. He further noted that the Minamata budget included an indication of the voluntary funds needed, however there was a need for fund-raising. He then invited the Executive Secretary to provide additional information.

The Executive Secretary indicated that initial plans had been made to hold the regional preparatory meetings, with tentative dates in October, as the documents for the second meeting would be available at this time. Initial discussions had begun with the BRS Secretariat to cooperate in the organization of these meetings, with a possible additional day for the meeting to discuss BRS matters. Detailed discussions were awaiting the availability of funds. She invited the Bureau to give an indication of possible contributions.

The President indicated that there were three major conditions for the regional preparatory meetings to be held: possible dates, meeting documents and funding. All three were needed. If any of the three were not available, then they could not be held. He further noted that the work required should be taken into consideration, and indicated that Switzerland was ready to contribute to the funding for these meetings.

One Bureau member indicated the importance of regional meetings, to coordinate the views of different Parties at the regional level. The member referred to the timing of the meetings in October being appropriate, in particular as to whether it allowed sufficient time for preparation for COP2 given the crowded meeting agenda. Another Bureau member sought clarity as to whether the meetings should include both Parties and non-Parties, noting that the inclusion of non-Parties would ensure they are prepared for becoming parties to the Convention. Another Bureau member agreed on the meetings being an essential part of the preparation for COP2, and thanked Switzerland for the offer of funding.

The Executive Secretary indicated that, to date, an initial offer from Peru to host the regional meeting for Latina America and the Caribbean, and covering some of the hosting costs, had been made. She noted that the BRS Secretariat would not be in a position to hold their preparatory meetings before November 2018, as the COPs for the three conventions were taking place in April/May 2019. However, they would be interested in adding an extra day for dealing with BRS issues. They would cover the incremental costs for the additional day.

One Bureau member sought further clarity on the funding available for non-Parties, and considered whether the participant-funding arrangements for the regional preparatory meetings should be harmonized with those for the COP. The President clarified that non-Parties participate in meetings as observers and can apply for funding support with priority given to Parties; and invited the Bureau members to check with their regions on the proposed dates, as well as to seek additional contributions. He asked that the elements should be clarified by the end of May to allow preparatory work to commence.

The Executive Secretary indicated the tentative dates as follows:

Asia Pacific:	3 - 5 October
Africa:	9 – 11 October
Central and Eastern Europe:	16 - 17 October
GRULAC:	23 – 26 October

6. Plans for future Bureau meetings – timing and venue

The President announced that the next Bureau meeting is planned for 13 and 14 September in Geneva. There were no comments on these dates, which were thus accepted by the Bureau.

7. Other matters

One Bureau member raised a question about how the increase in the number of Parties would be handled in terms of the assessed contributions for the budget adopted by the first meeting. The Executive Secretary clarified that the 2019 contributions would be adjusted based on the new Parties and future invoices would reflect the revised figures.

Another Bureau member noted the detailed report from the Executive Secretary on the procedural matters, and requested information be provided on the dates when documents would be available. He requested that COP2 documents be discussed during the face-to-face meeting in September.

8. Closing of the meeting

In closing the meeting, the following summary was provided by the Presidency. The conclusions of the meeting were that extensive work is underway, with great progress achieved to date. The Bureau trusts that the work required will be completed within the timeframes. The Bureau agreed that the presidency will convey to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme the strong wish of the Bureau that the current staff of the Secretariat should continue until after the second meeting.

Switzerland will consult with JUSSCANNZ members on the secretariat issues, working on the assumption that a stand-alone secretariat in Geneva and a host country contribution of 1 million Swiss francs per year has been agreed, and that the work for the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties will focus on the detailed arrangements for future work in Geneva. They will provide feedback to the Bureau members before the summer break, in particular in relation to whether additional intersessional work is needed. The other Bureau members are invited to similarly consult with their regions.

The request to the secretariat to provide a summary table providing the details on document preparation to be sent to the Bureau members, noting that each document will have a different preparation schedule, was highlighted.

The Bureau members, particularly those from Western Europe and Others Group, and Japan were encouraged to seek funding for the regional preparatory meetings, noting that clarity on funding is needed by the end of May.

The President closed the meeting with good wishes to all members, and an indication that he is looking forward to meeting all members in Geneva on 13 and 14 September 2018.

The meeting closed at 15.20 Geneva time.