

## COMMUNICATION

### Consultations on the framework for evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention (Article 22)

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to communicate to you on the further work in support of putting in place the arrangements for evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention, as agreed during the first segment of the fourth meeting of Conference of the Parties that convened online from 1 to 5 November 2021 (COP-4.1).

Article 22, paragraph 1 states that the Conference of the Parties shall evaluate the effectiveness of this Convention, beginning no later than six years after the date of entry into force of the Convention and periodically thereafter at intervals to be decided by it.

Since the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties in September 2017, the Conference of the Parties, the Parties, the ad hoc technical expert group<sup>1</sup> and the Secretariat have undertaken work in various areas to give full effect to Article 22 on effectiveness evaluation.

During the deliberations on the agenda item on effectiveness evaluation at COP-4.1, the Secretariat presented the work done intersessionally as mandated by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties through its Decision MC-3/10, namely on (i) the proposed indicators, (ii) advancing the work on drafting guidance on monitoring, and (iii) advancing the work on the synthesis report on national reporting under article 21, and a report on trade, supply and demand (which includes mercury waste flows and stocks).

At COP-4.1 the Secretariat also presented an overview, as contained in Document UNEP/MC/COP.4/18 of the work mandated and done since COP-1 and the remaining areas of work needed for the Conference of the Parties to put in place the framework and arrangements for evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention, and to conduct its first evaluation.

Further at COP-4.1, the President recalled that, following the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, some Parties had initiated informal consultation on the items that had remained unresolved at that meeting and which had not been subject to further work under Decision MC-3/10. The representative of Norway reported on these consultations and introduced a proposal by Norway and Canada on a framework for the first effectiveness evaluation as was set out in a conference room paper for the fourth meeting (UNEP/MC/COP.4/CRP.1).

Following the ensuing discussion, there was general consensus that it was worthwhile pursuing discussions on issues on which consensus had yet to be reached to help avoid delays and ensure that the deadline for the establishment of the first evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention could be met.

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<sup>1</sup> The ad hoc technical expert group engaged intersessionally to advance work on the arrangements to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention as called for in Article 22, between COP-1 and COP-2, and COP-2 and COP-3.

The representative of the Secretariat informed participants at COP-4.1 that the Secretariat would be in a position to invite written comments on the framework for evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention, and arrange an online session to enable Parties to exchange views thereon in preparation for the resumed fourth meeting convening from 21 to 25 March 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. The Conference of the Parties thus agreed to the holding of intersessional consultations organised in that manner.

This communication, therefore, sets out the Secretariat's plan of work on the consultations on the framework in preparation for the resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as follows:

<b>Plan of Work for the Consultations on the framework to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention, in preparation of the return to Agenda Item 4(i) on effectiveness evaluation at the resumed fourth meeting</b>	
Wednesday, 15 December 2021 from 13:00 to 14:00 CET	<b>Online Information Session:</b> The Secretariat will inform on the areas of work to give effect to article 22, the progress made thus far and the remaining areas of work on the effectiveness evaluation framework and related matters. The information session may also serve to allow Parties to share views and perspectives on the framework to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention additional to the documents, and for the conduct of the agreed consultations among Parties in preparation of the resumed fourth meeting.
Until Thursday, 20 January 2022	<b>Written Comments Deadline:</b> Parties are invited to submit written comments on the framework to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention as soon as possible, and no later than Thursday, 20 January 2022. The same deadline applies to stakeholders who may wish to provide their input.
Across Tuesday, 25 January, Wednesday, 26 January and Thursday, 27 January 2022 – <i>exact dates, format and times to be confirmed in early January 2022</i>	<b>Online Consultation Session:</b> The Secretariat will facilitate an online consultation session on the written comments received and provide the opportunity for additional comments to be made. This consultation session will also enable clarification on comments and responses, additional questions that may have arisen, and the exchange of other relevant information on the framework to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention and give full effect to Article 22. Parties may wish to submit further and or additional comments after this session.
February 2022	<b>Compilation of comments and input received:</b> The Secretariat compiles the comments and input received in light of the consultations on the framework for evaluating the effectiveness of the Convention, to support further consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the resumed fourth meeting under agenda item 4(i) on effectiveness evaluation.

In view of the interventions made by Parties at COP-4.1, and to support the Conference of the Parties deliberations at COP-4.2 to give full effect to Article 22, the conduct of consultations among Parties is of paramount importance.

I would therefore like to invite all Parties to prepare their written comments on the framework on the basis of the attached documents and to avail themselves of the opportunity to participate in the consultations as agreed by the Conference of the Parties at COP-4.1. I would further like to underline the Secretariat's readiness to fully support Parties in this endeavour.

Kindly contact Ms. Claudia ten Have, Senior Policy and Coordination Officer at [claudia.tenhave@un.org](mailto:claudia.tenhave@un.org), for queries you may have on the consultations, the attached documents, or, as needed, for technical and substantive support to prepare for and engage fully in the consultations.

We trust to welcome you at the Information Session on Wednesday, 15 December 2021 to set in motion the consultations.

I thank you for your commitment to support the work on the effectiveness of the Convention and your continued contribution to #MakeMercuryHistory.

Yours sincerely,



Monika Stankiewicz

Executive Secretary

To: National Focal Points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Cc: Governments through their official channels of communications to the UN Environment Programme  
Permanent Missions to the UN Environment Programme and to the United Nations in Geneva

Att: UNEP/MC/COP.4/18 – Giving effect to article 22: effectiveness evaluation  
UNEP/MC/COP.4/CRP.1 – Conference room paper on a framework for the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention: Proposal by Norway and Canada