

Ref: MC/COP5/2023/24

Geneva, 01 March 2023

Subject: Progress of the intersessional work for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (COP-5)

Dear Madam/Sir,

This letter is to update you on the progress of the intersessional work pursuant to the decisions at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-4) and to invite your further support to the process.

Annexes A and B to the Convention

Pursuant to the COP Decision [MC-4/3](#) and in response to my [letter](#) of 13 April 2022, we received several submissions on the availability and feasibility of non-mercury alternatives to mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used, to support the COP-5 in its consideration of Annexes A and B to the Convention. The submitted information has been posted on the Convention [website](#). The Secretariat will convene an online information session on Wednesday 22 March 2023, in which submitters of the information have an opportunity to present the information. The Secretariat will also directly communicate to parties and stakeholders to collect further information to support the consideration at COP-5.

Mercury releases

The group of experts on mercury releases developed draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices to control the release of mercury releases from the relevant point sources, which was posted on the Convention website on 23 December 2022 for comments by 17 February 2023. The compilation of the submitted comments has been posted on the Convention [website](#). The group will review the comments and finalize the draft guidance, which will be submitted to COP-5.

COP-4, in its Decision [MC-4/5](#), adopted the [guidance](#) on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases pursuant to paragraph 7 of article 9 of the Convention, and invited parties to take account of the guidance when preparing their inventory of releases from relevant sources pursuant to paragraph 6 of article 9. In the same decision, the Conference requested the Secretariat to compile inputs from Parties on the use of the guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases for consideration by COP-5. Noting that paragraph 6 of article 9 provides that each party shall establish an inventory of mercury releases from relevant sources as soon as practicable and no later than five years after the entry into force of the Convention for it, Parties may already have experience in using the aforementioned guidance. **If you have any inputs on the use of the guidance, please submit relevant information to the [Secretariat](#) by 15 May 2023.**

Mercury waste thresholds

The group of experts on mercury waste thresholds, working as requested in Decision [MC-4/6](#), met face-to-face in Geneva from 16 to 18 February 2023, back to back with the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention. I sincerely appreciate the financial contribution of the government of Japan that made this meeting possible. The group adopted a report to COP-5 with a proposal for mercury waste threshold, through the experts' constructive spirit, excellent preparatory work and tireless deliberation at the meeting, as well as the leadership of Co-chair Ms. Gabriela Isac (Romania) who chaired the whole meeting on behalf of Ms.



Oluwatoyin Olabanji who could not travel to Geneva due to flight cancellation. The meeting report will be posted on the Convention [website in due time](#), and will be included in the documents for COP-5.

Deadline for the submission of proposals to amend the Convention and its annexes

Pursuant to Articles 26 and 27 of the Convention, Parties may propose amendments to the Convention and its annexes. Any amendment proposal must be made available by the Secretariat to all Parties at least six months before the meeting of the COP at which it is proposed for adoption. Therefore, the text of any proposed amendments, as well as information required under Articles 4(7) and 5(9) of the Convention, should be sent to the Secretariat in advance to allow for the translation of the text of the amendment and its timely transmission to all parties, signatories and the Depositary, as required by Articles 26 and 27 of the Convention. The Secretariat indicated **by 28 February 2023** as the date of the submission to the Secretariat. More information is available on the Convention's [website](#).

If you have any question on the above, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. [Eisaku Toda](#), Senior Programme Management Officer, Secretariat of the Minamata Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Monika Stankiewicz,
Executive Secretary

To: Minamata Convention National Focal Points
Members of the Bureau of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Observers admitted to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Cc: Representatives of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme