



**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Fourth meeting**

Online, 1–5 November 2021 and Bali, Indonesia,
21–25 March 2022

**Decision adopted by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the
Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury****MC-4/4: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining**

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties, in its decision MC-1/13, considered guidance on developing a national action plan to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and agreed to the use of the guidance by parties addressing the issue of artisanal and small-scale gold mining that was more than insignificant,

Appreciating the work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization on updating the guidance and the input of the Global Mercury Partnership in the process,

Appreciating also the initiative of some parties and the secretariat to prepare additional technical material on monitoring of mercury in and around sites of artisanal and small-scale mining to support implementation of the guidance,

1. *Adopts* the updated guidance on developing a national action plan to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, which was set out in its earlier form in annex II to the note by the secretariat on the guidance document on the preparation of national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining¹ and amended as set out in annexes I and II to the note by the secretariat entitled “Article 7: artisanal and small-scale gold mining: update to the guidance document for the preparation of a national action plan to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining”;²
2. *Calls upon* parties to engage indigenous peoples, local communities and other relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of national action plans;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to compile views on the needs and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities with regard to the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining;
4. *Also requests* the secretariat, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme Global Mercury Partnership, to disseminate the guidance on developing a national action plan to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, to support its use by parties, and to keep it under review.

¹ UNEP/MC/COP.1/17.

² UNEP/MC/COP.4/29.