



**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-4/8: National reporting pursuant to article 21 of the
Minamata Convention on Mercury**

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the high rate of submission, the timeliness and the completeness of the short reports prepared by parties for the first reporting period,

Noting the efforts by the secretariat to support parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations, including through use of the online reporting platform,

Considering the factors that may have contributed to reporting challenges as identified by the Implementation and Compliance Committee in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,

Noting the many Minamata initial assessments that have been completed and provided to the secretariat for uploading to the website of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

Recognizing the importance of clarity in the information transmitted in national reports,

1. *Encourages* parties again to achieve a high rate of reporting for the next reporting period;
2. *Provides* clarification of the reporting format, as set out in the annex to the present decision, and requests the secretariat to reflect that clarification in the reporting format and on the online reporting platform;
3. *Requests* parties to continue their ongoing efforts to endeavour to identify individual stocks and sources of mercury in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 3 of the Convention;
4. *Calls on* parties that have received consent to export mercury to parties and/or non-parties to provide to the secretariat either copies of the consent forms used or other suitable information in their reports submitted pursuant to article 21 of the Convention to show that the relevant requirements of article 3 of the Convention have been met;
5. *Encourages* parties that are developing Minamata initial assessments to complete them as soon as possible so that the assessments may be of support to implementation measures and national reporting efforts;
6. *Requests* the secretariat:
 - (a) On the basis of parties' experience of completing the first full reports, which were due by 31 December 2021, to identify any questions regarding the reporting format that may pose

challenges to parties in responding, and to propose related clarifications, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

(b) To seek by 15 December 2022 any additional comments from parties and other stakeholders on the draft reporting guidance set out in the note by the secretariat on draft guidance for completing the national reporting format for the Minamata Convention on Mercury¹ that take into account their experience of completing the first reports;

(c) To submit the draft reporting guidance for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting;

(d) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

¹ UNEP/MC/COP.4/17.

Annex to decision MC-4/8

1. Regarding question 3.1, the basis for reporting the “total amount” is the total amount of **mercury** mined. For clarity, the words “of mercury” are to be inserted between “amount” and “mined” in subparagraph (c).

Question 3.1: Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory on the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party? (para. 3)

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate:

(c) *Total amount mined _____ metric tons per year

2. Regarding question 3.5, to allow parties to indicate that they did not export mercury, an additional box is to be added below the existing “No” to allow parties to indicate “No, no export”.

Question 3.5: *Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non-parties, for all exports of mercury from the party’s territory in the reporting period? (para. 6, para. 7)

Yes, exports to parties

Yes, exports to non-parties

No

If yes...

3. Regarding question 11.2, parties may look for information on how to define “final disposal” and how they might find national facilities using techniques for final disposal in the Basel Convention technical guidelines, in national laws or regulations, in national policy and administrative statements, in their Minamata initial assessment, or in an implementation plan developed pursuant to article 20 of the Convention. The Basel Convention technical guidelines, for example, describe physico-chemical treatment, using stabilization and solidification processes, to meet the acceptance criteria of disposal facilities. In relation to final disposal operations, the technical guidelines describe the methods for disposal in specially engineered landfills and disposal in permanent storage (underground facilities), together with the measures to be taken to prevent releases and methylation of stabilized compounds, prevent fire and conduct long-term monitoring.