



**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury**
Online, 1–5 November 2021 and Bali, Indonesia,
21–25 March 2022
Agenda item 4 (c)

**Matters for consideration or action by the
Conference of the Parties: releases of mercury**

**Road map for the development of guidance on best available
techniques and best environmental practices to control releases
from relevant sources pursuant to paragraph 7 of article 9 of
the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

Note by the secretariat

As its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury adopted, in decision MC-4/5 on mercury releases, a road map for the development of guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices to control releases from relevant sources. The text of the road map, as adopted, is set out in the annex to the present note.

Annex

Road map for the development of guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices to control releases from relevant sources pursuant to paragraph 7 of article 9 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Release sources covered by the guidance

At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention considered the categories of point source of releases proposed by the group of technical experts established in decision MC-2/3. The Conference adopted decision MC-4/5 on mercury releases, which included adoption of the guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of releases¹ and a request to the group to work electronically, and in line with the present road map for the development of guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices to control releases from relevant sources. These point sources are expected to be covered by the guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices to be developed by the Conference of the Parties.

Some point source categories may be prioritized for the development of the guidance. As article 9 of the Convention requires each party to identify relevant point source categories no later than three years after the entry into force of the Convention for it, and on a regular basis thereafter, information on the point source categories that have been identified by parties may be compiled for prioritization in the development of guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices. The first full national reports under article 21, which are to be submitted by 31 December 2021, will include relevant information on the implementation of the provisions of article 9. Minamata initial assessment reports may also contain relevant information on the point source categories for which guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices is most needed.

Technical information on best available techniques and best environmental practices

Existing information on specific technologies and practices, taking into account the national circumstances and capacities of developed and developing countries, may be collected for the development of the guidance. Information sources include technical documents used in national and regional contexts, such as best available technique reference documents and national wastewater treatment standards for relevant sources. Parties may be invited to submit such relevant information. International industry associations, other non-governmental organizations and the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership may also wish to submit relevant information.

Structure of the guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices

Subparagraph 7 (a) of article 9 of the Convention provides that the guidance should take into account any difference between new and existing sources and the need to minimize cross-media effects. The guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices in relation to mercury emissions, prepared pursuant to subparagraph 8 (a) of article 8, which sets out a similar requirement, may serve as an example when the Conference of the Parties considers the structure of the guidance on mercury releases.

The guidance should also take into account parties' national capabilities and circumstances, particularly those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Involvement of technical experts

The group of technical experts may be requested to collect the technical information and draft the guidance. Parties may wish to change the membership of the group, considering the need for further expertise in wastewater treatment and other abatement technologies and practices. The group may wish to cooperate with experts in best available techniques and best environmental practices for specific point source categories.

¹ UNEP/MC/COP.4/30.

Steps to be taken and the related timeline

The table below presents possible stages in the development of the guidance and a related timeline.

Steps and timeline for development of guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices

<i>Step</i>	<i>Timing</i>
Secretariat to start collecting technical information on best available techniques and best environmental practices, possibly supported by consultants within the resources available.	Immediately after the conclusion of the resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
Secretariat to invite parties, through their respective Bureau representatives, to confirm or change the membership of the group of experts.	Immediately after the conclusion of the resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
Secretariat to compile information on relevant point sources based on the article 21 national reports and other submissions.	Immediately after the conclusion of the resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
Secretariat to circulate a call to parties and other stakeholders to submit existing information on national regulations or industry practices relating to the control of mercury releases from relevant sources.	Immediately after the conclusion of the resumed fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
Group of technical experts to elect co-chairs, identify observers to be invited and agree on its working modalities, including online meetings and face-to-face meetings, within the resources available.	One month after the confirmation of the members of the group.
Group of technical experts to have reviewed the information compiled by the secretariat, with the support of consultants, including the submissions by parties and other stakeholders.	Two months after the submission of the information.
Group of technical experts, with the support of the secretariat and the consultants, to have prepared a first draft of the guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices.	Three months after its review of the information.
First draft of the guidance to be posted on the Convention website for comments and input.	Immediately after the preparation of the draft.
Deadline for comments from parties and other stakeholders on the first draft.	Two months after the posting of the guidance.
Group of technical experts to have revised the draft guidance taking into consideration the comments received.	Three months after receipt of the comments.
Draft guidance finalized for submission to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.	Five months before the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Relationship with other articles

In the process of developing the guidance, information relevant to other articles of the Convention, such as article 8 (emissions) and article 11 (mercury waste) may become available. Such information may be incorporated into relevant guidance documents or made available on the website of the Convention.