

DRAFT REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING

BUREAU OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Wednesday, 16 June 2021, by teleconference

Participants

Present: Rosa Vivien Ratnawati (Indonesia, for Asia Pacific, and President), W.T.B Dissanayake (Sri Lanka, for Asia Pacific), Oarabile Serumola (Botswana, for Africa), Roger Baro (Burkina Faso, for Africa), Angela Patricia Rivera Galvis (Colombia, for Latin America and the Caribbean), Bethune Morgan (Jamaica, for Latin America and the Caribbean), Marie-Claire Lhenry (France, for the Western European and Others), Alison Dickson (Canada, for the Western European and Others), Paulina Riquelme (incoming Chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, Ex officio member), Claudia Dumitru (outgoing Chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee), Gwenetta Fordyce and Darren Byrne (Co-chairs the ad hoc group of experts on the review of annexes A and B to the Convention), Bianca Dlamini and Greg Helms (Co-chairs the group of technical experts on mercury releases), Andreas Gössnitzer and Oluwatoyin Olabanji (Co-chairs of the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds) and members of the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Karmen Krajnc (Slovenia, for Central and Eastern Europe) could not participate.

1. Opening of the meeting

- Ms. Rosa Vivien Ratnawati, the President of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (COP-4), welcomed the members of the Bureau, Co-Chairs of expert working groups and newly elected Chair of Implementation and Compliance Committee and thanked them for joining the sixth online meeting. She also thanked Claudia Dumitru, the outgoing ICC chair, for her contribution to the Bureau meetings.
- Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, added her warm welcome to the members of the Bureau.
- The agenda of the meeting was adopted without change.

2. Updates on intersessional and other work

a. Progress of work of the expert working groups

- The President noted the document on the progress of intersessional work on technical issues and status of relevant COP-4 prepared by Secretariat and invited the Co-chairs of expert working groups to present the progress of work.
- The Co-chairs of the ad hoc group of experts on the review of annexes A and B to the Convention presented on the progress of the group's work. The President congratulated the group on the successful completion of the report by 30 April and encouraged the group to work on the remaining work on technical information on lamps.
- The Co-chairs of the group of technical experts on guidance in relation to mercury releases presented on the progress of the group's work. The President appreciated the great effort of the group to handle the difficult topic of the relationship between articles 9 and 11, and noted that the group need a little more time for commenting process.
- The Co-chairs of the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds presented on the progress of the group's work. The president appreciated the hard work of the group on such highly technical issues through the online platform, and noted that a small extension for about a month



would greatly help the Parties to agree on thresholds and thus to define mercury waste that Parties have to manage in an environmentally sound manner.

b. Update from Secretariat

- The Secretariat presented on the progress of work on dental amalgam, customs codes, ASGM tailings, indicators and draft monitoring guidance for effectiveness evaluation, draft guidance on reporting under Article 21, 3rd meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, update on gender-related activities, proposals for amending Annex A and B, and the requested submissions from Parties on Article 14: capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer.

3. Matters related to COP-4

a. Draft provisional agenda and tentative list of documents for COP-4

- The Secretariat presented the draft agenda of the COP-4, as prepared by the Secretariat with the President, noting that the COP-4 provisional agenda covers items opened in the online segment, as well as items opened only and/or resumed at the in-person segment. As all officers complete their terms only at the conclusion of COP-4, no elections of officers are foreseen at the online segment. All elections and confirmations shall take place at the resumed in-person meeting.
- The Secretariat presented the tentative list of documents for COP-4, noting that the working document related to budget will be shared with Parties on 2 August 2021 already as per the Financial Rules, while all other working documents will be made available well ahead of the regional preparatory meetings to COP-4 and latest by 20 September 2021.
- The Bureau member of the **JUSSCANNZ** region sought confirmation that the discussions during the online segment on agenda item 4 will not go into substantive detail but be limited to updates and procedural issues, and that substantive discussions of those and other items would take place at the in-person segment of COP-4. The Secretariat confirmed the understanding, referring to the tentative schedule of the meeting agreed at the 5th Bureau meeting and shared with Parties on 30 April 2021.
- The Bureau member of **WEOG** sought clarification regarding dates of the in-person segment of COP-4 and on the tentative list of issues to be considered during the on-line segment of COP-4. The Secretariat informed that the tentative timing for in-person segment was pre-defined as March 2022 and more exact dates will be proposed for Bureau consideration prior to COP-4. Also, the Secretariat confirmed the list of agenda items for the online segment as agreed by the Bureau during its 5th meeting, and reflected in the tentative schedule communicated in the above mentioned letter to the Parties.
- In response to a request for further clarity from a Bureau member from the **Africa** region, the Secretariat explained that the annotated agenda and a further document setting out the issues and items for considerations separate for the online segment and the in-person segment is being prepared as part of document preparation for COP-4 to provide further clarity. While the order of discussion of agenda items at the online meeting are set out in the tentative work schedule for COP-4 Part I, the tentative work schedule for COP-4 Part II will be agreed at a later stage through the Bureau.
- In addition, it was reminded that proposed agenda of COP-4 in its online segment, envisages that a substantive consideration will be given only to:
 - Programme of Work and Budget for the 2022-2023 biennium;
 - Draft reporting guidance;
 - GEF-8 replenishment;
 - Effectiveness evaluation matters.
- The Secretariat informed that upon request of the region, a number of closed sessions can be organized with no interpretation and confirmed that 2 sessions/days of regional meetings planned to take place back-to-back with in-person segment of COP-4 will be covered with DSA and interpretation.
- The President presented her intention to begin informal consultations on a declaration for COP-4 to call attention to the illegal trade of mercury.



b. Report on credentials for the two segments of COP-4

- The Secretariat presented an approach to follow when preparing the report on credentials for the two segments of COP-4 in 2021 and 2022.
- As a response to questions from Bureau members, the Secretariat clarified that electronic copies of credentials will be accepted until the second day of online segment of COP-4, allowing sending the original copies at later stage, but preferably credentials should be sent to the Secretariat by Monday, 4 October 2021 to facilitate the clearance process.
- The Bureau agreed that, when examining credentials received, it would accept original credentials in good order as well as copies of credentials in good order with the understanding that the originals will be submitted as soon as possible. It also agreed that credentials could be submitted either only for the online segment of the COP-4 or for both the online and the in-person segments of the meeting. In the former case, participants will be able to submit credentials following the invitation to attend the in-person segment which will be circulated in due course. In the latter case, updates to the credentials will be possible ahead of the in-person segment of the meeting
- The Secretariat informed Bureau members that all relevant information regarding submitting credentials will be posted on the Minamata website and shared with Parties in due time.

c. Plan for meetings and consultations in preparation for COP-4

- The Secretariat presented a plan for meetings and consultations in preparation for both segments of COP-4, including regional preparatory meetings, preparatory work on the proposed 2022-2023 Programme of Work and Budget, and additional preparatory and information meetings.
- Bureau member thanked the Secretariat for presenting the plan and proposed that information sessions on the draft guidance on national reporting be organised earlier than planned considering that the reports were due by the end of 2021. The Bureau member also asked to present a Conference Room Paper on advancing the work on the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention during regional preparatory meetings.
- In response to questions on online regional preparatory meetings, Secretariat noted that the organisation and agenda of these meetings will be done by the Secretariat in consultation with Bureau members from the respective regions who were also expected to chair the respective meetings.
- A Bureau member from the **GRULAC** region shared a view from the region on the limited time allocated (1day/4h) for the regional preparatory meeting. She also highlighted the importance of coordinating the Chemicals & Waste meetings agenda with other MEAs and organisations and involvement of Dominican Republic, as coordinator of the Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries for the Environment at Geneva, GRULAC-Environment. It was also requested there be further clarification on the technical approach in participation of observers during regional meetings and additional information on financial arrangements for covering of 2 extra-days of regional meetings prior to in-person segment (DSA and interpretation).
- Referring to the possibility to have closed-door sessions with interpretation during the online regional meetings, the Secretariat offered to further discuss the agenda and arrangements for the regional preparatory meetings with the respective Bureau members.

4. Any other business

- Secretariat presented additional information on its work:
 - Preparation of guidance on technical aspects of participating in online meetings, to be shared with COP-4 participants;
 - On-going procurement process in relation to COP-4 and regional meetings online platform;
 - Arrangements of side events during online segment of COP-4;
 - Gathering of information and best practices from UNEP and other MEAs on organising COPs during the pandemic in preparation for the development of a contingency plan for COP-4.



A Bureau member re-iterated her concerns on the limited time given to the interpreted regional meetings. Secretariat noted that it will explore further possibilities to organise more sessions with interpretation and will follow up with the member after the meeting.

a. Date of the following Bureau meeting

The President proposed to schedule the next meeting of the Bureau by video conference during the week of 20-24 September 2021 (*based on the availability of the Bureau members, the meeting could take place on 23-24 September*).

The next meeting of the Bureau will consider further preparation for COP-4.