



MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Review of Annexes A and B

First On-line Meeting
Thursday 7 May 2020, 14h00-15h30 CEST

Summary

Members who participated

Mr. Serge Molly ALLO'O ALLO'O, Gabon
Mr. Dominique Bally KPOKRO, Côte d'Ivoire
Ms. Noluzuko (Zukie) GWAYI, South Africa
Ms. Anne NAKAFEERO, Uganda
Ms. ZHAO Ziyang, China
Mr. D. Wardhana Hasanuddin Suraadiningrat, Indonesia
Mr. OZEKI Kazuo, Japan
Mr. Chris Allen, European Union
Ms. Jenny Green, European Union
Ms. Jelena Kovačević, Montenegro
Ms. Cristina Elena Maiztegui, Argentina
Ms. Gwenetta Fordyce, Guyana
Ms. Jhoana Estrella Dayan Canchanya Melchor, Peru
Mr. Sven Hagemann, Germany
Mr. Darren BYRNE, Ireland
Mr. Joel Ormala, Norway
Ms. Karissa Kovner, United States

1. Opening

Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention, welcomed the members and outlined the mandate of the group.

Eisaku Toda of the Minamata Convention Secretariat (later taken over by Takafumi Anan) chaired the meeting. He explained that since this was the first teleconference of the group, only members were invited to the meeting.

The group adopted the agenda as circulated in advance.

2. Election of co-chairs

One name (Darren Byrne from Ireland) was suggested as a candidate for co-chair. It was also suggested that if one male co-chair is elected from a developed country, the other should ideally be a female co-chair from a developing country.

The group will come back to the election at the next on-line meeting.

3. Overview of the submissions

The group noted that some countries, including Indonesia, Uganda and the United States, are still preparing to submit their information, and agreed that those late submissions, by the end of July, should be accepted with flexibility, taking into account the extraordinary situation caused by COVID pandemic.

At the request from a member, the Secretariat clarified the process for dental amalgam as specified in COP decision MC-3/2, which invited information from Parties and others by 1 July 2020, and requested the Secretariat to make the compilation available by 1 December and prepare a document by 30 April 2021.

The group agreed on the need to develop a template of information on products, processes and alternatives. The template can be used for Parties, non-Parties and other stakeholders for making additional submission of information, as well as for the Secretariat to compile the information received in an organised manner, e.g. in the form of one information sheet per product/process. The group requested the Secretariat to develop a draft template and circulate it to the experts before the second teleconference of the group, and to start organising the received information using that template.

4. Modalities and schedule of work

The Secretariat reminded the group that the COP decision MC-3/1 provided for one face-to-face meeting in June 2020 subject to availability of resources, and informed that it received a pledge of support to organize a meeting if needed. However, the group agreed to work electronically under the current COVID pandemic situation, and consider the possibility of a face-to-face meeting at a later stage.

Some members proposed to hold separate group-calls on different categories of products and processes that require detailed discussion, noting that some candidates of observers have specific expertise on specific product categories.

A question was raised on the current list of individuals who expressed their interest in participating as observers. The Secretariat will provide clarification by email to advance the consideration of observers.

5. Any other business

The group agreed that the next on-line meeting should take place in early June. Secretariat will do a Doodle poll to set up a date.