



# MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

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

Second On-line Meeting  
Wednesday 3 June 2020, 14h00-16h00 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  
Ms. Mojgan Khalilpour, Iran  
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**

Takafumi Anan of the Minamata Convention Secretariat welcomed the participants. He convened the discussion since co-chairs had not been elected at the first online meeting. Agenda was adopted as proposed.

#### **2. Election of co-chairs**

The group unanimously elected Mr. Darren Byrne from Ireland and Ms. Gwenetta Fordyce from Guyana as co-chairs, taking into account the gender balance and the balance between the developed country and developing country representation.

Mr. Darren Byrne chaired the meeting, explaining that co-chairs will take turns to chair up-coming meetings. Ms. Gwenetta Fordyce will chair the next online meeting.

### **3. Templates for submitting information on products and processes**

Upon invitation from the co-chair, the Secretariat recalled that in response to the request from the experts at the first online meeting, it developed draft templates to support the submission of information on products and processes. The draft templates were circulated and further revised according to the comments collected from the group. The revision was made with the intention to keep the templates as simple as possible to encourage the submission from Parties and other stakeholders. The Secretariat highlighted that following one of the comments from the experts, the category on dental amalgam was excluded from the template for products, considering that dental amalgam is subject to a separate intersessional process as specified in Decision MC-3/2.

A number of experts agreed on the structure of the revised draft templates as presented. Some experts questioned why information on manufacturing, import and export of mercury-added products was moved from section 3 to section 7 in the template for products. There were also some comments on including information on national policies on submitted information on products and processes in the template. The Secretariat explained that the information on the use of products would be highly relevant for the review of Annex A whereas information on manufacturing, import and export of products and national policies would be country-specific and could be regarded as additional information. The group accepted that explanation.

It was proposed that section 5 in the template for products should be divided into two subsections for 5(i) technical feasibility and 5(ii) economic feasibility of alternatives, supported by a number of experts.

On dental amalgam, one expert expressed her concern that the issue is critical to her region and the intersessional process to collect information on dental amalgam should be supported by this group. The group noted that it will encourage the selected observers with the expertise on dental amalgam to submit their information to the Secretariat in accordance with Decision MC-3/2, and the two intersessional processes on review of Annexes A and B and dental amalgam will support each other.

Some experts suggested to specify different kind of lamps and limit the cosmetics to those listed in Annex A. The Secretariat clarified that the intention was to enable submitting information on products not currently included in Annex A. One expert presented a “mind map” that may be useful for considering the structure of the report.

In concluding this agenda item, the co-chair requested the Secretariat to develop final drafts of the templates and circulate those to the group. Upon agreement of the group, finalised templates will be posted on the Minamata website for Parties and stakeholders to submit information by 31 July 2020. Also, the co-chair requested the Secretariat to start organising previous submissions into the agreed finalised templates and present the result at a future online meeting.

### **4. Modalities and schedule of work**

#### **(1) Schedule of work including the proposal on holding separate group-calls**

The co-chair recalled that there were proposals from the group at the first online meeting to hold separate thematic group-calls on different categories of products and processes, and comments from the experts on this issue were collated and circulated in advance of this meeting.

The group agreed to hold separate group-calls on different categories of products and processes. Those group-calls will cover all of the categories included in Annexes A and B, and will be organised taking into account the capacity of the group, during September – October 2020.

An expert asked a question about the requirement in COP decision MC-3/1 that the Secretariat make certain information available by August 2020. The Secretariat responded that that decision had assumed that a face-to-face meeting be convened in June, but since that was not possible, some adjustment would be needed.

The co-chair noted that the group should strive to work in line with the timelines set out in Decision MC-3/1, and it should consider carefully the schedule of the up-coming meetings and deadlines for tasks. With the support from the group, he requested the Secretariat to develop a detailed schedule (roadmap) on the intersessional work of the group until COP-4 and present it to the group at the next online meeting.

## **(2) How to enrich submitted information**

The co-chair opened the floor for discussion on how to enrich submitted information, how to identify further information needed and how to collect and compile such information. The Secretariat informed the group that it had received comments on the overview of previous submissions from the African group, and those comments will be circulated to the group after this meeting.

The group agreed that the whole process of the intersessional work of this group is about the organization and enrichment of information for the review of Annexes A and B. It requested the Secretariat to develop a simple compilation of the work on organising previous submissions in the agreed templates and present it at the next online meeting. According to the compilation, the group will further discuss how to identify additional information needed and how to collect and compile such information.

## **(3) How to select and invite observers to the up-coming meetings**

Upon the opening of the discussion on this agenda item, the co-chair recalled that the TOR of the group indicates that the group will invite 10 observers, but the group may need to consider adapting to the format of a series of thematic group-calls on different categories of products and processes. He also noted that not all the Parties that had submitted information have members in the group, and the group may consider inviting Parties and stakeholders that submitted information to future meetings. The current list of candidates for observers was circulated in advance of the meeting.

A number of experts commented that among the candidates of observers, some have “horizontal” expertise on mercury products and processes, while others have “vertical” expertise on certain product, e.g. lamps, measuring devices, rocket fuel. The group agreed to select and invite the observers with horizontal expertise to the online meeting, and to invite other observers with vertical expertise to the respective group-calls planned during September – October 2020. It also agreed that for observer participation in separate group-calls, it is not necessary to limit the number of observers with vertical expertise.

Based on the previous discussion in agenda item 3, the candidates of observers with expertise on dental amalgam were not selected as the observers for this group. The group will encourage those candidates of observers to support the intersessional process on dental amalgam as specified in Decision MC-3/2.

The co-chair requested the Secretariat to start communicating with the candidates of observers. He encouraged the experts to reach out to respective organisations or experts with relevant expertise that can support the work of this group, and share the identified candidates’ information

with the Secretariat. Four horizontal experts in the list (NRDC, ZMWG, IPEN and Norwegian Institute of Water Research) will be invited to the next online meeting. An expert offered to identify an observer with expertise on human health effects, and another member offered to reach out to industry to identify a horizontal expert. The Secretariat will update and maintain the list of observers who will participate in the process.

## **5. Any other business**

The group agreed that the next on-line meeting should take place in the week commencing 29 June. Secretariat will do a Doodle poll to set up a date.