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**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Third meeting**

Geneva, 25–29 November 2019
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

**Venue and date of the fourth meeting of the
Conference of the Parties**

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Note by the secretariat

1. At its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury adopted decision MC-2/5 on the venue and date of the third meeting and subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties. By paragraph 2 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties invited parties to submit offers to host the fourth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties in time for the third ordinary meeting, and to proceed in a similar manner for subsequent ordinary meetings.
2. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to submit, in advance of each ordinary meeting, an assessment of the offers received pursuant to paragraph 2 of the decision, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.
3. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary sent a letter dated 3 May 2019 to the national focal points for the Convention, the permanent missions to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, referring to decision MC-2/5 and recalling that parties were invited to submit offers to host the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in time for the third meeting, to be held in Geneva from 25 to 29 November 2019. She invited Governments wishing to make an offer to host the fourth meeting to submit their offers to the secretariat by 12 July 2019, so as to enable the secretariat to undertake the relevant arrangements, including the processing of the relevant documentation for the third meeting. She clarified that the invitation was also open to any countries that would become parties to the Convention by the time of the third meeting.
4. Subsequently, the secretariat received a note verbale dated 28 May 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva, attaching a letter from Mr. Carlos Holmes Trujillo García, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia. In the letter, Mr. Trujillo García announced the offer of the Government of Colombia to host the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, to be held in 2021. In his letter, he referred to the importance of the fourth meeting to accelerate and increase the global commitment to address the problem of mercury pollution through the adoption of decisions that would strengthen national capacities, control mercury trade and establish good practices to recover contaminated sites, among other initiatives.

* UNEP/MC/COP.3/1.

5. By the time of issuance of the present note no further offers had been received by the secretariat. The offer of the Government of Colombia is set out in the annex to the present note.

6. At the time of issuance of the present note, Colombia is not a party to the Minamata Convention. The Government of Colombia has, however, confirmed to the secretariat its intention to become a party by the time of the third meeting and has explained that it is currently finalizing the procedures required by its national legislation in order to deposit its instrument of ratification with the Convention depositary by 27 August 2019.

7. The Government of Colombia has also communicated to the secretariat its intention to provide further information regarding its offer at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

8. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the offer received from the Government of Colombia to host the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

Note verbale of 28 May 2019 received by the secretariat from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva

[translation from Spanish]

[ministry logo]

S-GAA-19-023573

Bogota, Colombia, 28 May 2019

Ms. Rossana Silva
Executive Secretary
Minamata Convention on Mercury

Re: Proposal by Colombia to host the fourth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention

Dear Executive Secretary:

This letter is regarding the fourth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

As we know, mercury has been recognized around the world as a toxic substance with serious impacts on human health and the environment. It travels through the soil, water and air, crossing national borders. As a country that is seriously affected by mercury pollution, Colombia has deployed a number of actions to reduce the use of this substance, including through Act 1658 of 2013 and through the early implementation of the Minamata Convention.

With a view to continuing these efforts and making resolute progress towards a mercury-free Colombia and to promoting sustainable development and the strengthening of global environmental governance, I am pleased to announce that the Government of Colombia is proposing to host the fourth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, to be held in 2021.

The Conference will be essential for accelerating and increasing the global commitment to addressing the issue of mercury pollution, through decisions that should, among other things, serve to strengthen national capacity, control the mercury trade and establish good practices for the rehabilitation of polluted sites.

I take this opportunity to reiterate the assurance of my highest consideration.

[signature]

Carlos Holmes Trujillo García

Minister for Foreign Affairs

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