Preparations for the seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury (INC 7)

Briefing to the Permanent Missions
Geneva, 26 January 2016
Status of ratifications

Entry into force: 90th day after the date of deposit of the 50th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession

As of January 2016: **128 signatures, 20 future Parties**
Capacity-building activities (MIAs)

Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) projects currently ongoing in 59 countries, and a further 55 are in the pipeline or have recently been submitted. In addition, a further 5 similar projects are currently being conducted.
Projects for developing National Action Plans (NAP) on ASGM currently ongoing in **10** countries and a further **31** in the pipeline.
Seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury (INC 7)

INC 7 is scheduled from 10 to 15 March 2016 at the Dead Sea, Jordan, with regional consultations on 9 March 2016

Objectives of INC 7:
- Prepare for the entry into force of the Convention
- Make significant progress towards the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties in particular by reaching agreement on a number of issues with regard to which the Conference will be required to adopt decisions at its first meeting
Expected outcomes of INC7

Items to be provisionally adopted by INC7 prior to formal adoption at COP1 include:

- Draft guidance to assist parties to complete forms under Article 3 (Supply and trade)
- Draft guidance on the identification of individual stocks of mercury
- Draft guidance on BAT/BEP in relation to Article 8
- Draft MoU between the GEF Council and the Minamata COP
- Draft guidance to the GEF on overall strategies, policies, programme priorities and eligibility for financial resources
- Draft reporting format and the frequency of reporting
Preparations for INC7 – Documents

21 meeting documents, based on resolutions adopted at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, organized in the provisional agenda of INC 7 as follows:

1. Organizational items
2. Work to prepare for the entry into force of the Convention and for COP1:
   a) Items necessary for effective implementation of the Convention upon entry into force
   b) Matters required to be decided upon by COP1
   c) Items to be adopted by the INC on a provisional basis pending formal adoption by COP1
   d) Activities to facilitate rapid entry into force and effective implementation upon entry into force
3. Report on the activities of the Interim Secretariat during the period prior to the entry into force of the Convention
4. Other matters
Venue for INC 7

The INC 7 venue will be the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre at the Dead Sea in Jordan.
**Schedule for INC7**

**Tuesday 8 March:** 2 pm to 6 pm

**Wednesday 9 - Tuesday 15 March:** 8 am to 6 pm

**On site registration:** Conference badges issued upon presentation of picture

**Wednesday 9 March**

**Thursday 10 to Tuesday 15 March**

**Regional meetings:** Facilities available for regional and other group meetings from 9 to 15 March 2016

**Thursday 10 March**

**Official opening:** 10.00 a.m.

**Thursday 10 to Tuesday 15 March**

**Formal sessions:** from 10 a.m to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Contact groups:** To convene as established.
Preparations for INC7 - logistics

Deadline for funding requests

- 1 December 2015
- Travel arrangements being finalized

Visa requirements

- Participants responsible for obtaining any necessary visa
- Participants are responsible for obtaining yellow fever vaccination certificates

Detailed practical information is available on our website.
Preparations for INC 7 - logistics

**Hotel accommodation**

- Block bookings for participants have been made at four hotels within walking distance of the venue
- Participants are responsible for making their own reservations

**Transportation**

- Taxis are readily available at the airport.
- Bus services from the airport on 8 and 9 March, and for return on 15 and 16 March, will be available upon pre-registration and pre-payment. Further information will be available soon.
- Participants with mobility issues should contact the Interim Secretariat.

Detailed practical information is available on our website.
Exhibitions, side events and technical briefings at INC 7

- **Objective:** To relay relevant and timely information to the INC 7 participants

- **Exhibitions:** Exhibitions will be organized at INC 7. The deadline for registration for exhibition space deadline is 1 February 2016. Further information in available on our website.

- **Side events:** A limited number of side events are scheduled on **Wednesday, 9 March 2016.** Two events may be organized in parallel during three available time slots: from **1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, and from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

- **Technical briefings:** One technical briefing to raise awareness on technical aspects of the Minamata Convention will be organized during each time slot
Regional preparatory meetings for INC 7

Regional meetings will be held in preparation for INC 7 in January and February 2016

- Jakarta, Indonesia: 20-22 January 2016
  - Back-to-back with an INC Bureau meeting on 18-19 January 2016
- Lusaka, Zambia: 2-4 February 2016
- Brno, Czech Republic: 3-4 February 2016
- Montevideo, Uruguay: 9-12 February 2016

Main objectives:
To contribute to a successful INC 7 by giving countries in the regions the opportunity to:

- Prepare and consult each other in advance of the session
- Consider meeting documents
- Discuss substantive matters on the INC 7 agenda
- Identify regional priorities and challenges
- Facilitate the preparation of regional positions
An INC7 Bureau meeting was held in Jakarta back-to-back with the Asia-Pacific regional preparatory meeting to make the final arrangements for INC7.

Expectations are high for the conclusion of a large number of issues at INC7.
INC 7 documents
INC 7 documents

INC 7 will present to the delegates 21 meeting documents and 6 information documents. The documents can be divided into five categories of issues:

• Technical issues
• Finance issues
• Rules and legal issues
• Monitoring and reporting issues
• Other issues
INC 7 documents: Technical issues

Related documents:

- **Document 7/3**: Draft guidance to assist parties in completing the forms required under Article 3
- **Document 7/4**: Draft guidance on the identification of individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons, as well as sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tonnes per year
- **Document 7/5**: Compilation of submissions on the question of whether additional guidance was necessary in accordance with paragraph 12 of Article 3
- **Document 7/6, 7/6/Add.1, 7/6/Add.2, 7/6/Add.3, 7/6/Add.4**: Draft guidance developed by the group of Technical Experts in relation to Article 8 on Emissions
- **Document 7/17**: Draft guidance on artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- **Document 7/18**: Environmentally sound interim storage: compilation and summary of submissions; identification of relevant sections of the Basel guidance; and a roadmap for work on interim guidance.
- **Document 7/19**: Compilation of information on the use of mercury waste thresholds
- **Document 7/20**: Contaminated sites
INC7 documents: Finance issues

Related documents:

- **Document 7/8**: Draft guidance to the GEF on overall strategies, policies, programme priorities and eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources
- **Document 7/9**: Report by the co-chairs of the Ad hoc Working Group of Experts on Financing
Related documents:

- **Document 7/7**: Draft memorandum of understanding between the GEF Council and the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention
- **Document 7/13**: Draft rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties
- **Document 7/14**: Draft Financial Rules for the Conference of the Parties

**INC7 documents: Rules and legal issues**
Related documents:

• **Document 7/10**: Draft reporting format as amended by the sixth session

• **Document 7/11**: Compilation of information on the frequency of reporting under other multilateral environmental agreements, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, along with data, if available, on the submission of reporting rates under other agreements

• **Document 7/12**: Compilation and analysis of the means of obtaining monitoring data in relation to effectiveness evaluation
INC7 documents: Other issues

Related documents:

- **Document 7/15**: A report on proposals on how the Executive Director will perform the functions of the permanent secretariat for the Convention, including an analysis of options that, inter alia, addresses effectiveness, cost-benefit, different locations for the secretariat, merging the secretariat with the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and utilizing the interim secretariat.

- **Document 7/16**: Compilation of offers received to host the permanent secretariat.
