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

Briefing to the Permanent Missions
Geneva, 26 November 2015
Main steps of the negotiations process

2009-2013
INC1 Stockholm
INC2 Chiba
INC3 Nairobi
INC4 Punta del Este
INC5 Geneva
Diplomatic Conference, Japan
INC6 Bangkok
INC7 Jordan

2001-2008
2009-2013
2014-2017
2018 onwards

OEWG Bangkok
UNEP GC decision
COP1 Geneva
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 November 2015: 128 signatures, 19 future Parties
Outreach and awareness raising activities

• **12 sub-regional workshops** in support of the ratification and early implementation of the Convention organized between March 2014 and February 2015. The workshops were organized to:
  - Inform about available sources of support
  - Create an opportunity for exchange and action in the sub-regions
  - Formulate national roadmaps to move towards ratification and implementation of the Convention

• **4 regional workshops** to support ratification and early implementation of the Convention organized back-to-back with the BRS regional meetings between March and April 2015.
**Intersessional processes**

**Technical Expert Group on BAT/BEP**
- Established through the resolution of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries
- Experts nominated by the 5 UN regions
- Mandated to develop the guidance called for in Article 8 (Emissions)
- Covers all aspects under Article 8 paragraphs 8 and 9
- 4 meetings held in Ottawa, Canada; Montreux, Switzerland; Pretoria, South Africa; and in Stockholm, Sweden
- The draft guidance of the expert group will be presented for consideration at INC7 and forwarded for adoption at COP1

**Ad hoc Expert Group on Financing**
- Established by decision at INC6 following negotiations on Article 13 (Financial resources and mechanism)
- The group met once intersessionally in Sao Paolo, Brazil, from 25 to 30 October 2015 to discuss:
  - The proposal for the host institution of the Specific International Programme
  - The guidance on the operation and duration of the Specific International Programme
- The outcome of the meeting will be presented as a co-chairs summary to INC7
Pilot projects

- The interim secretariat is supporting the implementation with partner organizations of **pilot projects** in support to ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention:
  - At the national level (Cambodia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Vietnam).
    - Key activities include:
      - Development of inventory of mercury uses, emissions and releases
      - A legal and policy review and assessment
      - Organization of national consultations
  - At the regional or sub-regional levels:
    - A project to determine mercury levels in hair in women of childbearing age in a selection of countries of the Asia and the Pacific Region
    - Support to the organization in April 2015 in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, of a sub-regional workshop for a selected number of Francophone African countries on the implementation of the provisions on dental amalgam under the Convention
Capacity-building activities (MIAs)

Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) projects currently ongoing in 58 countries, and a further 53 are in the pipeline or have recently been submitted. In addition, a further 5 similar projects are currently being conducted.
Capacity-building activities (NAPs)

Projects for developing National Action Plans (NAP) on ASGM currently ongoing in one country and a further 8 in the pipeline.
Seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury (INC7)

INC7 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

Items needed to be forwarded for adopted by COP1 include:
- Draft rules of procedures and financial rules for the COPs
- A report on how the ED of UNEP will perform the functions of the permanent secretariat of the Convention
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

NOTE: The INC 7 documents are currently in preparation and advance versions will be available in English in December 2015.
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**

- **On site registration:** Conference badges issued upon presentation of picture. It is mandatory to display a badge at all times.

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

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

- **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.

- **Tuesday 8 March:** 2 pm to 6 pm
- **Wednesday 9 - Tuesday 15 March:** 8 am to 6 pm

- **Wednesday 9 March**

- **Thursday 10 to Tuesday 15 March**
Information on INC7 invitations

To Governments:
• Letters dated 29 September were sent out to UNEP’s official Government contact points, with copies to the SAICM national focal point and PM in Geneva and Nairobi.
• Formal deadline for registration is 1 December. Please visit the Minamata website (INC 7) for the registration forms.

To IGOs:
• Letters dated 12 November were sent out.
• Formal deadline for registration is 1 December.

To NGOs:
• Letters dated 18 November were sent out.
• Formal deadline for registration is 1 December.
### Preparations for INC7 - logistics

#### Deadline for funding requests
- 1 December 2015
- Travel arrangements being finalized

#### Visa requirements
- Participants responsible for obtaining any necessary visa

Further practical information, including on hotels near the meeting venue, visa and any information on vaccinations will be available on our website.
Exhibitions, side events and technical briefings at INC7

- **Objective:** To relay relevant and timely information to the INC7 participants

- **Exhibitions:** Organized at INC7 from *Wednesday, 9 March to Tuesday, 15 March 2016* – deadline for registration for exhibition space deadline is 1 February 2016

- **Events and technical briefings:** There may be a limited number of events scheduled on *Wednesday, 9 March 2016*. In addition, technical briefings may be organized to raise awareness of technical aspects of the Minamata Convention.
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
  o 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
• GRULAC: 9-12 February 2016 (venue to be confirmed)

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

Bureau meeting:
INC 7 planning, consider meeting issues, have strategic and policy discussions, develop logistical plans
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