Preparations towards the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
Geneva, 24-29 September 2017

Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
mercury.chemicals@unep.org

Chemicals and Waste Briefing to the Permanent Missions
22 June 2017 – Geneva, International Environment House II
AUGUST 16 2017
ENTRY INTO FORCE

65 ratifications as of 21 June 2017

First Conference of the Parties
24-29 September 2017
Geneva, Switzerland
Status of ratifications

As of 22 June 2017: 128 signatories, **65** future Parties
Capacity-building activities (MIAs)

Minamata Initial Assessment projects currently ongoing in **102** countries
Capacity-building activities (NAPs)

Projects for developing National Action Plans on artisanal and small scale gold mining currently ongoing in 32 countries
First Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

From 24 to 29 September 2017 at the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)
Schedule for COP1

- **On site registration**: Conference badges issued upon presentation of picture ID. Badge display mandatory at all times.
- **Facilities available for regional meetings**
- **Official opening**: 3 p.m.
- **Formal sessions**: from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Smaller groups**: To convene as established.
- **High-Level-Segment**
Highlights of COP1

- **Sunday 24 to Friday 29 September 2017** at CICG
- **Preparatory meetings**: Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning
- **Thematic sessions** on “Air”, “Ocean” and “Land” from 25 to 27 September 2017
- **“MIA Clinic”** to allow agencies and countries to showcase their MIA work, including lessons learned
- **Exhibition area** featuring the implementation of the Minamata Convention through a mercury life cycle journey
- **Hg-Week**: 22 to 28 September 2017 in Geneva
High Level Segment “Make mercury history” hosted by the President of Switzerland on Thursday 28 September and Friday 29 September 2017:

- Plenary opening at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday
- Roundtables for Ministers in the afternoon
- Thursday evening, special celebratory event at the UN Palais Assembly Hall, followed by a reception
- Friday morning, High Level Segment panels
ISSUES FOR COP1
First meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP1)

The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP1) is confirmed to take place from 24 to 29 September 2017 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland.

Download "Save-the-date" flyer here.

The Conference will culminate in a High-Level Segment (on 28 and 29 September 2017) hosted by the President of Switzerland, entitled “Making mercury history”, to celebrate the commitment of the international community to the Minamata Convention. It will be preceded on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 September by preparatory meetings, including regional and Bureau meetings.

During the seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, the secretariat was asked to seek input from Governments and interested stakeholders on a number of issues to be considered further at COP1. The submissions received are made available here.
Structure of COP1 agenda

• Matters for action by COP1:
  - stipulated by the Convention
  - stipulated by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries
  - recommended by the INC
  - programme of work of the secretariat and budget

• Matters stipulated by the Convention for action by the COP
United Nations Environment Programme

Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
First meeting
Geneva, 24–29 September 2017

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
   (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure;
   (b) Election of officers;
   (c) Adoption of the agenda;
   (d) Appointment of the credentials committee;
   (e) Organization of work.
3. Report of the credentials committee
Forms and guidance provisionally adopted or agreed upon by INC for COP1 adoption

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art 3</th>
<th>Forms and guidance in relation to <strong>mercury supply sources and trade</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art 6</td>
<td>Forms and guidance in relation to <strong>exemptions available to a party upon request</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art 7</td>
<td>Guidance on developing a national action plan to reduce, and where feasible, eliminate mercury use in <strong>artisanal and small-scale gold mining</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art 8</td>
<td>Guidance in relation to <strong>emissions</strong> (BAT/BEP)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Forms and guidance

As mandated in the resolution on arrangements in the interim period adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury established pursuant to Governing Council decision 25/5 will meet during the period between the date on which the Convention was opened for signature and the date of the opening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as may be necessary to facilitate the rapid entry into force of the Convention and its effective implementation upon its entry into force.

The intergovernmental negotiating committee has considered a number of forms and guidance documents required for the effective implementation of the Convention, and has adopted a number of relevant documents on a provisional basis pending formal adoption by the Conference of the Parties. These forms and guidance are presented below.

Guidance on completing the forms required under article 3 related to trade in mercury

ARABIC  CHINESE  ENGLISH  FRENCH  RUSSIAN  SPANISH
Article 6: Exemptions upon request

The convention opens up for exemptions to the phase-out dates for articles 4 and 5, as captured in Annex A and Annex B.

If a Party seeks an exemption to the phase-out dates, they have to seek such an exemption upon becoming a Party to the Convention – Secretariat: Form and Statement (5 years). COP may decide, at the request of the Party, to extend the exemption for up to another 5 years.

No party may have an exemption in effect after 10 years after the phase-out date listed in Annex A or Annex B.
# Key Technical Issues for COP1

| Art 10 | • Draft guidelines on **environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury**, in accordance with the roadmap agreed at INC7  
|        | • COP1 to determine path forward |
| Art 11 | • Compilation of information submitted by Governments and others on **mercury waste thresholds**  
|        | • Intersessional process led by Japan in response to the call for informal efforts to propose appropriate thresholds |
| Art 12 | • Outline of the structure and content of guidance on **contaminated sites** and roadmap on further work |
| Art 21 | • Draft **reporting format and frequency** of reporting forwarded from INC7 for further discussion and decision by COP1 |
| Art 22 | • COP 1 to initiate establishment of **arrangements for comparable monitoring data**  
|        | • Intersessional work request by INC7 to be presented for discussion |
Technical submissions for COP1 based on request for further work made at INC7

During the seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, the secretariat was asked to seek input from Governments and a range of other interested stakeholders on a number of issues to be considered further at COP1. The submissions received are made available below.

SUBMISSIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS

- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Canada
- European Union
- Japan: Article 11 Article 12 Article 22
- Madagascar
- Norway
- Republic of Korea
- Switzerland
- Thailand
- United States: Article 7 Article 22
- The following countries recommended the use of this guidance for contaminated sites: Chad, Congo, Norway, Mali, Sierra Leon and Senegal

SUBMISSIONS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
# Key Operational Issues for COP1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art 23</th>
<th>• COP1 to adopt <strong>rules of procedure and financial rules</strong> for itself and any of its subsidiary bodies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Art 24 | • Report on the provisions for the **arrangements of the permanent secretariat** of the Minamata Convention  
• Offer on the **physical location** of the secretariat |
## Key Support Issues for COP1

### Art 13
- **Guidance to the GEF** on overall strategies, policies, programme priorities and eligibility for financial resources adopted on a provisional basis, pending formal adoption at COP1
- **MoU between the GEF Council and the Minamata COP** agreed pending further action by COP1
- **Guidance to, and governance of, the Specific International Programme** forwarded to COP1 for further consideration

### Art 15
- First 15 members of the **implementation and Compliance Committee** to be elected at COP1
LOGISTICS FOR COP1
Preparations for COP1 - logistics

Online pre-registration:
https://meetings.unog.ch/meetings/COP1/registration

Deadline for funding requests
- 23 June 2017
- Travel arrangements will start in mid-July 2017

Visa requirements
- Participants responsible for obtaining any necessary visa

Further practical information about COP1, including on hotels near the meeting venue, visa and other logistical issues available at:
http://mercuryconvention.org/Negotiations/COP1/ParticipantsInformation/
Rules of participation

Parties to the Convention

• Credentials required to take part in the decision making process
• Originals to be submitted by 3 p. m. on 25 September 2017, advance copy preferably by 15 September 2017
• Models in the six official UN languages on Convention website

Observers

• States that have not ratified by 1 July will be observers at COP1
• NGOs to apply for admission as observer, through submission of information including on qualification in matters covered by the Minamata Convention
Regional preparatory meetings

- **Asia-Pacific**: 5-7 July 2017 in Bangkok
- **Africa**: 11-13 July 2017 in Johannesburg
- **Central and Eastern Europe**: 12-13 July 2017 in Brno, Czech Republic
- **Latin America and the Caribbean**: 25-28 July 2017 in Buenos Aires