UNLOCKING MEAS’ POTENTIAL: Supporting Parties’ Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management

10 MAY 2023 | 18:15 - 19:45 CEST | CICG (ROOM 11-12) & ONLINE

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Unlocking MEAs’ Potential: Supporting Parties’ Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management

Diana RIZZOLIO
Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network | Moderator

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COPs SIDE EVENT

SPEAKERS
By order of intervention.

Carlos MARTIN-NOVELLA
Deputy Executive Secretary, BRS Secretariat

Monika STANKIEWICZ
Executive Secretary, Minamata Convention Secretariat

Haruko OKUSU
Chief, Outreach and Projects Unit, CITES Secretariat

Anna GARCÍA SANS
Communications and Knowledge Management Officer, Minamata Convention Secretariat

Peter SPEELMAN
Associate Legal Officer, Law Division, UNEP

Patricia KAMERI-MBOTE
Director, Law Division, UNEP

Osmany PEREIRA
Chief, Information and Conference Services Branch, BRS Secretariat

Shashika SEDARA HETTIQUE
Associate Information Systems Officer, CITES Secretariat

Jamie KNILL
Physical Science Specialist, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Diana RIZZOLIO
Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network | Moderator
Throughout the event, you may raise your questions in the Q&A box.

Automatically translated subtitles in many languages are available through the captions button on the bottom left of your screen.

The recording, summary and documents will be made available on the event's website.
CAPTIONS IN ENGLISH CAN BE ACTIVATED BY CLICKING ON THE BUTTON ON THE LEFT-SIDE OF THE BOTTOM BAR ON THE SCREEN
AGENDA

Opening Remarks
- Carlos MARTIN NOVELLA | Deputy Executive Secretary, BRS Secretariat
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Stakeholders’ Perspectives
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Unlocking MEAs’ Potential: Supporting Parties’ Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management

Opening Remarks

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY  CITES  InforMEA  GENEVA ENVIRONMENT NETWORK  COPs SIDE EVENT
Unlocking MEAs’ Potential: Supporting Parties’ Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management

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Unconventional Events: Supporting Parties’ Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management

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Photo by IISD/ENB | Kiara Worth
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Closing
Unlocking MEAs’ Potential: Supporting Parties’ Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management

Stakeholders’ Perspectives
MEAs cooperation on knowledge management to support parties and others. The InforMEA initiative

By Osmany Pereira Gonzalez
BRS Secretariat
Objectives

- The power of data and information
- MEA Knowledge Management context
- Cooperation between MEA Secretariats and other organizations
- How InforMEA works? Working principles and examples
- InforMEA: from sharing information to producing new content
- Challenges, the future, emerging technologies
The power of data and information

- In the modern age of information technology, **data and information are considered valuable assets** for organizations, comparable to human, financial and other resources.
- With the growth of the Internet and online businesses many **organizations have created value by empowering their clients with data, information and knowledge** that facilitate faster turnover and considerable increase in productivity.
- The importance of data and information for decision making is also being recognized by the The UN Secretary-General’s **“Data Strategy for Action by Everyone, Everywhere”**.
Usually the MEA Secretariat are the custodians of MEAs’ information assets, and they are very similar across MEAs, for example:

- Official meeting documents and records
- Legal records such as convention text, rules of procedures, status of ratifications, COPs and other meeting decisions, etc.
- Country contacts, OCPs, NFPs, CA, DNAs, etc.
- National reports on implementation and compliance
- MEA country profiles
- Project specific data, etc.
- Materials for technical and capacity assistance, such as video recordings of webinars, proceedings of workshops, countries’ needs assessments, etc.
- e-learning and training courses
- Science based recommendations and studies from scientific subsidiary bodies
Cooperation between MEA Secretariats and other organizations

- The InforMEA initiative was launched at the UNEP/MEA KM Meeting in Chexbres, Switzerland, 22-24 September 2009

- Participants recommended to exchange data among the MEAs secretariats on 1) Calendars/Events, 2) COP decisions, 3) National Contacts, and 4) Official Documents. Established a Steering Committee and a Working Group.

- First InforMEA Initiative Steering Committee Meeting, 22-24 June 2010, Glion, Switzerland - 13 steering committee meetings and multiple meetings of the working group,
- discussed and developed standards for data schemas, APIs and other tools,
- structured around several workstreams: Technical, semantic indexing (glossaries, thesauri, taxonomies), web archiving, e-Learning, national reporting, outreach ...
- developed of a joint inforMEA portal and other websites
Cooperation between MEA Secretariats and other organizations

- The InforMEA initiative currently has **26 MEA secretariats** hosted by **5 UN organisations**
- With UNEP support, the initiative has acquired **common ICT infrastructure** that is currently **hosted by the BRS Secretariat**
- [https://www.informea.org/](https://www.informea.org/)
How InforMEA works? Working principles and examples

- Information & data remains with the owners/custodians
- Start small, expand as resources permit
- Develop standard formats for automated data exchange (Interoperability)
- Extensive use of modern Internet technologies
- Metadata standards & taxonomies
- Resource, expertise & best practices sharing
- Resource mobilization efforts
- Interoperability: https://www.informea.org/en/about/api
InforMEA: from sharing information to producing new content

- A number of MEA secretariats lack resources and expertise in certain areas of Knowledge Management
- The InforMEA eLearning platform now hosts over 50 training courses in multiple languages.
- Judicial portal, Negotiator's toolkit, ...
- [https://elearning.informea.org/](https://elearning.informea.org/)
Interactive online course: Plastic Waste and the Basel Convention

Updated version now available on:

- UN CC:e-learn (EN, FR, SP) UN CC:e-Learn
- InforMEA (EN) InforMEA learning

- One-stop-shop on strategies, tools and guidance to tackle plastic waste in line with the Basel Convention
- 4 modules and 8 lessons with videos, interactive content, quizzes etc.
- In cooperation with UNITAR
- Funding: European Union

www.brsmeas.org @brsmeas
Challenges, the future, emerging technologies

- Data quality, data gaps
- Legal constrains
- Language barriers
- Training needed to use IT tools

- Satellite imagery can help with environmental data
- Sensors and Internet of Things
- Cloud computing
- Artificial Intelligence
Thank you!
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Photo by UN/Erdi Nogueras
What is CITES?

- **Biodiversity-related MEA** (Signed 3 March 1973, 183 countries + EU)
- Covers specimens of **<40’000 species of wild fauna and flora** (live, dead, parts or derivatives)
- Aims to ensure that **international trade** does not threaten their survival (import, export, re-export, introduction from the sea)
- A dynamic and adaptive instrument with **three Appendices** that accord different levels of trade measures, to ensure:
  
  **Legality**
  Specimens are legally obtained
  
  **Sustainability**
  Wildlife trade is not detrimental
  
  **Traceability**
  Traced from origin to final destination through permits
Challenges in Parties finding their own information...
Complex & lengthy compliance processes make it hard to know the national compliance status

- National legislation
- Annual reports (legal and illegal trade)
- Review of Significant trade (species or taxonomic group-based)
- Article-XIII process
- National Ivory Action Plans
Challenges in Parties finding their own information...

Information sent by Parties collected & managed separately at the Secretariat

- National reports
- Annual export quotas
- Trade exemptions
- Permit information
- Focal points (MA, SA, Enforcement)

Parties not fully benefiting from knowledge kept by the Secretariat
What we did...

• How do other MEAs organize information?
• What information/data do we collect from Parties?
• How do we keep and update information?
• How can we use it to help determine areas of compliance challenges and capacity support?
• Can we link to other databases (Review of Significant trade, SpeciesPlus, CITES Trade DB)?
Result...

- Country profile page
- Compliance database

Next...

- Parties to self-update info
- Improved cross-searches
- Maps and visualizations
- Other documents (Notification, etc.)
Demonstration
Thank you
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Celebrating Success and Preparing for the Future on National Reporting

Unlocking MEAs' Potential: Supporting Parties' Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management | BRS COPs 2023 Side Event

Geneva, 10 May 2023

Anna García Sans, Communications and Knowledge Management Officer, Minamata Convention Secretariat
Background information on national reporting
Paragraph 1 of article 21 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury provides that each party shall report to the Conference of the Parties, though the Secretariat, on the measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures and the possible challenges in meeting the objective of the Convention.

At its first meeting (2017), the Conference of the Parties:

- Agreed on the full format of reporting and decided that each Party shall report every four years using the full format and report every two years on four questions marked by an asterisk in the full format.
- Encouraged each Party to provide an electronic version of its report.
- Requested the Secretariat to make available an electronic version of the party’s previous report so that it may be updated accordingly.
The full format contains 43 questions to be answered by all parties every four years, while the short report contains four questions (indicated by an asterisk in the full format) to be answered every two years.

The national reporting format consists of five parts:

- **Part A**: requests information about the Party and respondent
- **Part B**: contains the 43 questions
- **Part C**: provides an opportunity for Parties to comment on possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention
- **Part D**: provides an opportunity for Parties to comment on the reporting format and possible improvements
- **Part E**: provides an opportunity to add comments on each of the articles in free text if the Party chooses to do so.
Overview of the Convention's National Reporting Timeline

16 August 2017 : Entry into force of the Convention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>First short reports (1 year) 16 Aug 2017 to 31 Dec 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>First full reports 16 Aug 2017 to 31 Dec 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>COP-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>COP-2</td>
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<td>2021</td>
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<td>COP-4.1</td>
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<td>COP-4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>COP-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>COP-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Sec report to ICC
- Secretariat report to COP
- Secretariat report to COP
- Secretariat report to COP
- Secretariat report to COP
- Sec report to ICC

31 Dec 2019
31 Dec 2021
31 Dec 2023
31 Dec 2025
2019 Short Reports compared with 2021 Full Reports by 29 April 2023

2019 Short Reports – Reporting Rate (31/12/2022)
91%

2021 Full Reports – Reporting Rate (05/04/2023)
93%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Parties reported by 29 April 2023</th>
<th>Number of Parties required to report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021 Full Reports</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Short Reports</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Parties reported by 29 April 2023
Number of Parties required to report
Introduction to the Online Reporting Tool
Getting ready for the Online Reporting Tool
Welcome to the Minamata Convention Online Reporting Tool

"Reporting on measures to be taken to implement the provisions of the Minamata Convention, the effectiveness of such measures and the challenges encountered."

Part A: Information on the party
1. Information on the party
   - Address
   - Name of reporting authority
   - Reporting authority code
   - Contact person

Part B: Art. 3: Mercury supply sources and trade
3.1 Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are operating within its territory? (As of 1 January of the convention for the party)
   - Yes
   - No

Online Reporting Tool Demo
Online Reporting Tool - Main features

► The **fully-fledged online reporting tool** was launched in September 2022 after 5.5 months of conceptualization and development work.

► It is **integrated** with the new Minamata Convention website, developed in Drupal. All the information is stored sharing the same data architecture. Therefore, the possibilities for visualizing information on the website or integrating it with other UN systems like InforMEA are endless.

► The ORT can be accessed and filled in in **all 6 UN languages**.

► It allows also Parties to access the **previous reports**.

► **Navigation** can be forward and backward, and after completing each section it will be shown on the right **sidebar status**.

► For increasing user experience, each question is linked to each **article and paragraph**, focal points can start with any question, questions can be **saved**, and there are **conditional questions** and automatic **pre-populated fields**.

► The filled-in report can be **previewed** before submitting it.

► **Offline paper version** to facilitate collection and collation of information – same look and feel.

► **Online resources** and training material on the **Convention's website**.

► **Secretariat support** – a technical team ready to help.
What happens after submission? Steps taken by the Secretariat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Collect reports, acknowledge and <strong>check for completeness and clarity of responses</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Completed report - Secretariat carries out a <strong>check on the data and information</strong>, to the extent possible. If necessary, the Secretariat sends queries for <strong>clarification</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Data and information provided by Parties is used in the preparation of different documents for the <strong>COP</strong>, the <strong>Implementation and Compliance Committee</strong>, and made available on the Minamata Convention <strong>website</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**MC-3/9 Annex I, para. 25 (b):**
Secretariat report to the ICC "shall include but not limited to information about Parties’ reporting performances and the identification of particular issues that may emerge from the reports and may be of interest to the Committee."
Behind the scenes - Data management
Database structure

Reports are accessible from the same **Drupal website backend**, to view and manage data.
Database structure

- The reporting tool is using **Webforms** as a customized Drupal module.
- Different **export formats**: delimited text, HTML table, JSON,
- Column options – all the questions
- **Download** options: order, limit to, submission state
- **Revisions** - workflow that allows data coming out from the complete reports to the Secretariat and back to the system with any edition made and/or improvement of questions, with traceability.
Data visualization - Dashboard
National Reporting Dashboard

- It compiles the **reporting performance** and all the **quantitative responses** with 135 data visualizations.

- This Dashboard aims to provide users with **complementary insights for analyzing the responses to the full national reports**. Each page contains the aggregated response from Parties with a pie graph with the overall values in percentages and a stacked bar chart illustrating the data broken down by region.

- All the dashboard data comes **automatically and in real-time** from the Parties' responses in the Online Reporting Tool (ORT) database.

- As with all data processing, this is the **first iteration of the Dashboard**, which will continue to **evolve** in terms of technology and depth of information management. Future iterations of the Dashboard may explore cross-references and other ways of visualising data.

ACCESS THE DASHBOARD
Way forward
Overall planning and challenges

For the ORT

- We have just added a **new cycle** – short reports to be submitted before 31 December 2023 (period 1 Jan 21 to 31 Dec 2022) and training sessions and materials to support Parties.

- **Benchmark analysis** – best practices + check part D of all reports and, when feasible, incorporate feedback.

- Upscales **dynamic dashboards** for all cycles in terms of technology and user experience.

- Create specific **visualizations** from the outcomes that are meaningful and provide insights – **cross-reference** data – consistency with **Effectiveness Evaluation** indicators.

- **Qualitative data** – data mining, machine learning?

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**Key items for COP-5:**
- Consider the 2021 national reports, including ICC outcomes, and make clarifications as required
- Agree on reporting format
- Agree to reporting guidance
Thank you for your attention

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#MakeMercuryHistory
Unlocking MEAs’ Potential: Supporting Parties’ Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management

Jamie KNILL
Physical Science Specialist, Environment and Climate Change Canada

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CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES ON KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND NATIONAL REPORTING UNDER THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Jamie Knill
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Jamie.knill@ec.gc.ca
WHY NATIONAL REPORTING MATTERS

• Reiterates commitment to implementation
• Key source of data for Convention processes and information gathering
  – Implementation and Compliance
  – Effectiveness Evaluation
  – Intersessional work
• Identifies successes, challenges and areas for improvement
BENEFITS BEYOND OBLIGATIONS

• Opportunity to take stock and reflect
  – Where are there successes, weaknesses?
  – What do we know, where are there gaps in information, and how could those gaps be filled?
  – Results are helpful to prioritize work planning and resources
  – Can provide evidence to drive regulatory development
BENEFITS BEYOND OBLIGATIONS

• Opportunity to contextualize data
  – Tell the story of mercury and mercury management
  – Explain data sources, shortcomings, anomalies
  – Expand on challenges faced in collecting, analyzing or reporting on data
BENEFITS BEYOND OBLIGATIONS

• Information sharing
  – What are others doing? Is it successful? Can it be replicated or modified to fit your needs?
  – Are there opportunities to collaborate, scale up, or expand projects and initiatives?

• Raise awareness
  – Within the government
  – Opportunities for public communication
CANADIAN PROCESS

1. Work planning
   - Review guidance documents and reporting format
   - Identify required vs supplementary information
   - Inventory available data/information sources
   - Consider timelines to request and receive information

2. Outreach and data collection
   - Identify data providers and begin early engagement
   - Formally request information according to internal processes
   - Tailor questions to be as specific as possible
   - Follow up on requests for information and clarify responses as needed

3. Compilation and submission
   - Information complied in the offline version of the reporting format

- Documentation to plan and track progress is used throughout the process
- As part of first reports, Canada developed an internal guidance document to help streamline subsequent reports
DATA SOURCES AND CHALLENGES

Sources of information

- Release inventories
- Customs and trade data
- Surveys
- Regulatory reporting
- Government experts

Challenges

- Requests for data can take a long time
- Collecting data from different levels of government
- Data not always available in level of detail required
FINAL THOUGHTS

• High reporting rate is very encouraging
• Openness and transparency in national reporting is key to reaching the objectives of the Minamata Convention
• THANK YOU to the Minamata Secretariat for your efforts to help Parties complete reports
Unpacking MEAs’ Potential: Supporting Parties’ Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management

10 MAY 2023 | 18:15 - 19:45 CEST
CICC (ROOM 11-12) & ONLINE

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AGENDA

Opening Remarks
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Panel Discussion
- Moderated by Diana Rizzolio | Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network

Closing
Unlocking MEAs’ Potential: Supporting Parties’ Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management

INFORMEA INITIATIVE
MEAs Coming Together for Knowledge Management: Services for National Focal Points and Negotiators
Unlocking MEAs’ Potential: Supporting Parties’ Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management

Peter SPEELMAN
Associated Legal Officer, Law Division, UNEP

>>> tiny.cc/GEN10May23KM
InforMEA
The Information Portal on MEAs
Membership

Legally binding treaties from 26 MEA Secretariats hosted by 5 UN organizations + IUCN
Membership

**BIODIVERSITY**
- CBD
- CITES
- CMS/AEWA
- ITPGR-FA
- IPCC*
- WHC
- IPBES

**LAND**
- UNCCD
- IPPC*
- ITPGR-FA

**CLIMATE AND ATMOSPHERE**
- UNFCCC
- Ozone & Montreal Protocol
- LRTAP

**CHEMICALS**
- Basel C.
- Rotterdam C.
- Stockholm C.
- Minamata C.
- SAICM

**MARINE AND FRESHWATER**
- DOALOS
- MAP & Regional Seas Conventions
- Ramsar
- International Whaling Commission

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**ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNANCE & CROSS CUTTING**
- Aarhus C.
- Escazu C.
- UNECE Cs.
Interoperability

InforMEA’s approach is rooted in the desire to **build capacity** with the custodian of the data and to **negotiate** voluntary **data standards**.

Interoperability entailed negotiations of schema, implementation of harvesting protocol (API) and the agreement on a common set of term concepts.

More recently, InforMEA has identified and acquired a top-of-the-line tagging software, carrying significant potential for future interoperability between MEAs.
InforMEA Portal

85+ Treaty Pages
2,000 Treaties and Protocols
13,000 COP Decisions
12,000 National Plans & Reports
16,000 News and events
190,000 National Laws
3,000 Court Cases
63,000 Documents and Literature
1,000 Goals and Declarations
5,000 Contacts

305,000 Documents

Filterable against:
- Topics
- MEAs
- Countries
- Time frames

Indexed against 500+
Term Concepts defined in five UN languages

InforMEA
hazardous waste

DEFINITION(S)

Any waste or combination of wastes with the potential to damage human health, living organisms or the environment. Hazardous wastes usually require special handling and disposal procedures which are regulated by national and international laws. (Source: GEMET/HMD / DEE / HMH)

HIERARCHY

Alternative labels: toxic waste
Exact matches:
Related concepts: hazardous substance, biological contamination, medical waste
Concept URI: https://www.informea.org/en/knowledge/glossary/hazardous-waste

IN OTHER LANGUAGES

French déchets dangereux
Russian опасные отходы
Spanish residuos peligrosos
Arabic مصادر خطرة
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENTS TAGGED WITH HAZARDOUS WASTE

You can see below a list of multilateral environment agreements. Use the links on the right to view the content tagged with hazardous waste. This includes official treaty texts, decisions, recommendations, and other related informational documents such as publications, annuals, meetings, documents or reports.

- Basel Convention: 11 articles and paragraphs, 8 decisions, 672 documents
- Stockholm Convention: 5 articles and paragraphs, 1 decision, 58 documents
- Montreal Protocol: 1 decision
- Kyoto Protocol: 2 articles and paragraphs
- Rotterdam Convention: 38 documents
- Barcelona Convention: 1 decision
- Dumping Protocol: 2 articles and paragraphs
- Prevention and Emergency Protocol: 1 article or paragraph
- Offshore Protocol: 3 articles and paragraphs
- Hazardous Wastes Protocol: 11 articles and paragraphs, 1 decision
- Nurnberg Convention: 2 articles and paragraphs
- UN: 15 decisions
- Minamata Convention on Mercury: 2 articles and paragraphs, 1 decision, 1 document
Follow up the links below to see InfoMEA content related to hazardous waste coming up from several external sources.

- 7 multilateral treaties
- 59 national legislations
- 770 multilateral environment agreement-related documents
- 3 environmental goals and declarations
- 2 videos in multimedia section
Target 12.4

Summary: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

Keywords: air pollution, chemical, emission reduction, hazardous waste, land-based marine pollution, marine pollution, oil pollution, persistent organic pollutant, pollution, ship-based marine pollution, soil pollution, sound environmental management, water pollution

EXPLOR CONTENT

RELATED STRATEGIC ITEMS

Indicator 12.4.1: Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement

Indicator 12.4.2: Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment

MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENTS TAGGED WITH TARGET 12.4

You can see below a list of multilateral environment agreements. Use the links on the right to view the content tagged with Target 12.4. This includes official treaty texts, decisions, recommendations, and other related informational documents such as publications, annuals, meetings, documents or reports.

- Basel Convention: 63 articles and paragraphs, 18 strategic plan items
- Convention on Migratory Species: 4 articles and paragraphs
- Stockholm Convention: 93 articles and paragraphs
- Vienna Convention: 3 articles and paragraphs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Ratification</th>
<th>Party status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention on Migratory Species</td>
<td>01 Jan 1992</td>
<td>01 Jan 1992</td>
<td>Ratification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</td>
<td>10 Jun 2002</td>
<td>13 May 2010</td>
<td>Ratification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyoto Protocol</td>
<td>16 Mar 1990</td>
<td>26 Sep 2001</td>
<td>Ratification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inter-operable tools

Over the past years InforMEA supported the development of linked tools for law related stakeholder groups.
The 9th Steering Committee welcomes the GJIE as an observer

Prototype designed with Eau de Web endorsed by 10th InforMEA SC

Case contribution featured linked to auto-tagging tool and Glossaries - beta version launch Dec 2020

Official Launch - 1 June 2022 at the Stockholm+50 Symposium on Judges and the Environment - about 75,000 users per annum so far
Law and Environment Assistance Platform (LEAP)

Montevideo V

10th SC Meeting invites deeper connection to MEA legal officers and link to work on EROL in the Law Division. Legal officers from UN and MEAs are invited for input - LEAP is initiated.

Prototype designed and shared in stages with MEAs/InforMEA linking to legislation, MEA data and InforMEA courses.

Official launch at the First Global Meeting of National Focal Points for the Montevideo Programme V 6-9 June 2022

already over 100,000 users /month
E-learning at a Glance

54,000 Registered Learners
193 Countries
53,000 Certificates
50 courses/6 diplomas;
70+ language versions
Chemicals and Wastes

Basic Principles of Chairing and Role of the Chairs of Meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Mercury and Gender

InforMEA

UN environment

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY
This lesson will inform you about the Plastic Waste Amendments, adopted by decision BC-14/12 in 2019. It explains the implications of the Plastic Waste Amendments, in particular regarding the classification of plastic waste and related obligations in terms of the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure.

Moreover, this lesson provides a brief overview of other relevant actions taken by the COP, notably decision BC-14/13 - also adopted at the 14th meeting in 2019 - following which, amongst others, the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP) was established.
InforMEA: The Next Phase
Re-engaging with MEA Negotiators and National Focal Points

The Negotiators Toolkit
Negotiator's toolkit

This comprehensive knowledge base will help you to understand and navigate multilateral environmental negotiations and related processes.

Negotiator's Handbook

Provides a comprehensive introduction to negotiating or working on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), as well as a key reference tool for experienced negotiators.

Open →

Training materials →
Training resources on MEA negotiations including e-learning courses, presentations, manuals and reports.

Rules of procedure →
Rules of Procedure for conferences/meetings of the parties and general treaty information.

Case studies/examples →
Real and simulated MEA negotiation examples.

Glossary →
UNEP Glossary of Terms for Negotiators of Multilateral Environmental Agreements
3 Machinery

3.1 Conduct of business in MEA meetings

We will start by examining the rules of procedure, which play a critical role in MEA negotiations. All too often MEA negotiators have only a limited awareness of the rules of procedure. Many are technical specialists or strategic actors focused on their own specific objectives, and prefer to leave rules of procedure to legal experts. Some may not even recognize the influence that the rules of procedure have on the negotiations and substantive outcomes, as open discussion of the rules is often avoided among negotiators for various reasons. Yet even where no explicit reference is made to the rules of procedure, they constantly operate in the background, influencing Parties’ conduct and thus exercising a profound influence on the multilateral process and its outcomes. An obvious example is a rule on majority decision-making. Voting is generally avoided in international diplomacy, but whether and how consensus is obtained on a given issue may depend to some degree on the understanding of how Parties would vote. Overall, knowing the rules of procedure is critical to deal with procedural moves by other Parties or a presiding officer, because procedural issues can have a dramatic effect on the outcome of negotiations.

When States first form an negotiating body or forum to negotiate a new MEA, one of the first items on the agenda is to adopt rules of procedure for the negotiating body. If the negotiations lead to an MEA, the latter typically provides that a Conference of the Parties (COP - see the section on structure) will, at its first meeting, adopt by unanimous vote or by consensus the rules of procedure as well as financial rules. Many of the rules of procedure and financial rules are the same for all MEAs. However, a negotiator should always be familiar with the particular
12 Essentials of Multilateral Negotiation
1. Representing your country in a multilateral negotiation is a serious undertaking and a major responsibility, not to be entered into lightly. 2. Prepare as much as possible to understand the subject of the negotiations, your country's interests, and the

Topics: Environmental Governance

Basic Principles of Chairing and Role of the Chairs of Meetings of the BRS Conventions
MEAs: Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention
Topics: Chemicals and Waste

View PDF Course Workbook

CARICOM Key Principles of Negotiation Training Slides
Training presentation on key principles of MEA negotiation provided by CARICOM to prepare regional negotiators for CBD COP 15.
MEAs: Convention on Biological Diversity
Case studies

Here you will find a selection of real and simulated examples of various negotiations from a number of MEAs across a range of environmental topics.

Decision-Making by Consensus

Some illustrative examples highlighting how decision-making by consensus is not always straightforward.

View

Elections by Secret Ballot

Illustrative examples of UNEA and MEA provisions on elections by secret ballot.

View

Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction

Negotiation simulation exercise undertaken during the University of Eastern Finland – UNEP Course on Multilateral Environmental Agreements in 2019.

View

MEAs: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

Topics: Biological diversity


MEAs: Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

Topics: Biological diversity


The version linked above was made available at the thirty-second Meeting of States Parties from 13-17 June 2022. MEETING OF STATES PARTIES Thirty-second Meeting (13-17 June 2022)

Glossary of Terms for Negotiators of MEAs

This glossary is a modified and edited version of a glossary prepared by the UNEP Law Division on the basis of publicly available information, including the United Nations Treaty Collection Treaty Reference Guide, websites of the global MEAs, the UNITAR Glossary of Terms for UN Delegates, and literature on international negotiations and International Law.

A

AAAA
Aarhus Convention
ABS
ACAP
Acceptance
Access And Benefit-sharing
Accession
Acclamation
Accreditation
Acronym
Ad Hoc
Ad Referendum
Adaptation
Adaptation Committee
Adaptation Communication
Adaptation Fund

G

G-5
G77
GATT
Gavel
GBF
GBO
GC
GGOS
GEF
General Assembly (UN GA or UNGA)
General Clauses/provisions
Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs)
GEO
GHGs
GHS

P

Package Deal
Pacta Sunt Servanda
PADELA
PAMs
Pans Agreement
Party
Patent
PCA
Permanent Forum On Indigenous Issues (PFII)
Permanent Representative (PR)
Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
PFCs
PFII
PGRFA
PIC
Global Assessment Report On Biodiversity And Ecosystem
Resource type
- Case studies
- E-learning course
- Glossary

Topics
- Chemicals and Waste

MEAs
- Stockholm Convention
- Basel Convention
- Rotterdam Convention

Browse all resources

Showing 1 - 6 of 6 results

CASE STUDIES | 2007
Stockholm Convention on POPs: Adding a substantive element to a draft MEA
MEAs: Stockholm Convention
Topics: Chemicals and Waste

View →

E-LEARNING COURSE | 2022
Basic Principles of Chairing and Role of the Chairs of Meetings of the BRS Conventions
MEAs: Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention
Topics: Chemicals and Waste

View PDF Course Workbook →

GLOSSARY
POP Convention

GLOSSARY
POPs
Persistent Organic Pollutants

GLOSSARY
Stockholm Convention
InforMEA: What’s Next?

- Compliance Section
- Project Documents and Data
- Financial Mechanisms
Thank You!

- InforMEA: The Information Portal on MEAs: www.informea.org
- Elearning: elearning.informea.org

Eva Duer (InforMEA Team Leader)
eva.duer@un.org

Peter Speelman
peter.speelman@un.org
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MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY
SMAK CONVENTIONS
InforMEA
UN Environment Network
COPs SIDE EVENT
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Diana RIZZOLIO
Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network | Moderator
INNOVATING AND UNLOCKING FINANCE FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

11 MAY 2023 | 16:00 - 17:30 CEST | PALAIS DES NATIONS & ONLINE
WHAT'S NEXT?
genevaenvironmentnetwork.org
UNLOCKING MEAS’ POTENTIAL: Supporting Parties’ Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management

10 MAY 2023 | 18:15 - 19:45 CEST | CICG (ROOM 11-12) & ONLINE

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