

Ref.: MC/ES/2022/202

Geneva, 3 November 2022

Subject: Areas proposed by Minamata Convention Secretariat for defined cooperation with Global Mercury Partnership in the 2022-2023 intersessional period

Dear Co-chairs of the Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group,

As the Minamata Convention advances into its sixth year, collaboration between the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Global Mercury Partnership is strong and productive. The Partnership brings a wealth of expertise and initiative to the efforts of Parties, non-parties, civil society, industry, indigenous peoples and local communities as they seek to fulfil the Minamata Convention's objective.

I would like to thank you, the co-chairs, and the Global Mercury Partnership area leads and Secretariat for your hard work and leadership in this regard.

Minamata Convention Decision MC-4/12 on international cooperation and coordination serves as additional background for the enhanced cooperation and coordination between the Secretariats of the Minamata Convention and the Global Mercury Partnership.

The last Partnership Advisory Group meeting, PAG-12, demonstrated to me that we have a number of workstreams that are particularly complementary and could benefit from a more defined description of our cooperation. These are:

**Intersessional mandates** - The Partnership, through its Secretariat and its members, has been an active and valued participant in many intersessional processes. This was true in our last intersessional period, during which the Partnership was actively engaged in, for example, work on customs codes and ASGM tailings management, and is true in the current intersessional period. As appropriate, per the mandate of each item, the Partnership is invited to participate in the intersessional work towards COP-5:

- Development of guidance document on best available techniques and best environmental practices to control releases from relevant sources (decision MC-4/5)
- Development of mercury waste thresholds (decision MC-4/6)
- Submissions on the second review of the financial mechanism relative to GMP interaction with the financial mechanism in advancing the implementation of the Convention (decision MC-4/7)
- Input into the Gender Action Plan, which can draw on and highlight GMP gender work, in particular on ASGM (decision MC-4/10)
- Participation in the Open-ended Scientific Group for the effectiveness evaluation, as well as provision of input to mercury trade, supply and demand report (decision MC-4/11)

**Convention technical documents** – The Partnership brings relevant expertise and engagements to bear with respect to Convention documents, including through disseminating, supporting use, and keeping updated/under review: ASGM NAP guidance – disseminating consolidated updated document and tailings management technical document, and advancing engagement of indigenous peoples, local communities and other relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of NAPs per decision MC-4/4



- Knowledge management products – enhancing development and use, including those taking stock of submissions, implementation and reviews of NAPs and MIAs, and promoting awareness of new dashboards
- Customs codes – collaborating on further work and update of document
- BAT/BEP guidance -- sharing of technical and other relevant new information
- Monitoring guidance for ASGM areas – finalizing and making use of, as appropriate

**Technical and capacity-building activities** – The Partnership's expertise and engagements can align with the Convention's work to advance:

- Capacity building on mercury-added products, including through activities implemented by the Secretariat and funded by the European Union, and through the Specific International Programme
- Capacity building on mercury waste management, including through activities implemented by the Secretariat and funded by Switzerland, and through the Specific International Programme
- Capacity building activities on other implementation needs, such as emissions, trade and contaminated sites
- Cooperation to identify areas for possible Partnership implementation support to Parties, building on the results of national reporting pursuant to article 21, observations from the Implementation and Compliance Committee, and areas of need identified through Specific International Programme applications
- Online events under Minamata Online science stream, including following up on ICMGP synthesis papers
- Information sharing on mercury science, including the linkage with broader sustainability agenda such as climate change and biodiversity
- Information sharing on relevant technologies and private sector initiatives

The above list is not intended to exclude other areas of cooperation and coordination that we may explore, but rather to help us take stock of our recent cooperation, and to give food for thought to facilitate our mutual planning, implementation and communications, for the benefit of the Partnership members, our Parties, and our planet. I look forward to further productive interaction at the upcoming 13<sup>th</sup> Partnership Advisory Group Meeting.

Sincerely,

*Monika Stankiewicz*

Monika Stankiewicz  
Executive Secretary

To: Co-chairs of the Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group  
Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP