

Ref: MC/COP5/2023/190

Geneva, 15 December 2023

Subject: Cooperation between the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Dear Chair of the Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group,

Following the conclusion of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-5), which took place from 30 October to 3 November 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland, I would like to thank you, the Global Mercury Partnership area leads, the Partnership Secretariat, and all the member stakeholders for your engagement in the ongoing work to fulfil the objective of the Convention.

I continue to place a high priority on collaboration between the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Global Mercury Partnership. The expertise and motivation of the partners, as guided by the Partnership Advisory Group (PAG), are so valuable to the efforts of Parties, non-parties, civil society, industry, indigenous peoples, and local communities in our shared vision of making mercury history.

In its Decision MC-5/18, the Parties called for enhanced international cooperation and coordination, and in Decision MC-5/12, the Parties requested the Secretariat to continue and enhance cooperation with the Global Mercury Partnership, and to engage with the Partnership in the consideration of options for strengthening the capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer programme of the Secretariat and for enhancing support to Parties as they cooperate to provide capacity-building and technical assistance pursuant to Article 14.

As I did prior to PAG-13, I would like to outline some workstreams envisioned for 2024-2025 for which defined cooperation between the Partnership and the Convention Secretariat could be mutually beneficial:

Intersessional mandates - The Partnership's engagement in previous intersessional processes has been highly valuable, and I hope it will continue and increase. Several of the COP-5 decisions reference the Partnership explicitly, while others are well suited to close collaboration. As appropriate, per the mandate of each item, the Partnership is invited to participate in the intersessional work towards COP-6:

- The development of guidance to assist Parties in identifying, managing and reducing mercury trade from primary mercury mining (Decision MC-5/2, with specific invitation to the Partnership);
- The drafting of an update to the existing guidance on stocks (Decision MC-5/2);
- Study of the global supply, production, trade and use of mercury compounds (Decision MC-5/3);
- Submission of information to the Secretariat by 30 June 2024 on challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of cosmetics listed in part I of Annex A as well as on current or proposed measures for addressing these challenges, preparation of a draft report compiling and synthesizing the submitted information, and review and comment on related Secretariat report (Decision MC-5/5);
- Submission of information to the Secretariat by 31 March 2025 on technically and economically feasible alternatives to the use of mercury and mercury compounds in vinyl chloride monomer production (Decision MC-5/6);
- Development of supplemental guidance on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of NAPs, to be submitted for consideration by COP-6 (Decision MC-5/7);



- Submission of information on experience in using guidance on mercury emissions under Article 8 (Decision MC-5/8);
- Submission of information from Parties on their waste management regulations and programmes by 31 October 2024, and submission of data and information on the effectiveness of the threshold for waste contaminated with mercury in protecting human health and the environment, as well as on challenges and experiences related to its use (Decision MC-5/10);
- Information sharing on relevant technologies and private sector initiatives in support of the desk study and case studies to be compiled by the Secretariat on capacity-building, technical assistance and technology cooperation, as well as related webinars including on the planetGOLD technology transfer activities (Decision MC-5/12);
- Participation in the Open-ended Scientific Group for the effectiveness evaluation (Decisions MC-4/11 and 5/14);
- Engagements on priority actions of the Minamata Convention Gender Action Plan (decision MC-5/15);
- Preparation of a draft road map, including possible actions and indicators, to support Parties in demonstrating and maximizing the co-benefits arising from the implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Decision MC-5/17).

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 guidance document together with related technical documents on tailings management technical document and monitoring in and around ASGM sites, and advancing engagement of indigenous peoples, local communities and other relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of NAPs per decisions MC-4/4 and 5/7;
- BAT/BEP and inventory guidance on emissions and releases, guidance on interim storage and contaminated sites, and Basel Convention technical guidelines on mercury waste -- sharing of technical and other relevant new information;
- 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;
- Monitoring, emissions/releases and analysis plans and reports for the effectiveness evaluation.

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

- Training to support parties in better understanding the mercury trade provisions, their interrelation with other articles of the Convention, and the use of trade forms adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
- Opportunities to strengthen the capacity of enforcement officers, including customs officers, to control trade of mercury and mercury-added products at the national level;
- Awareness raising and implementation support with respect to Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention, including amendments to Parts I and II of Annex A and Part I of Annex B;



- Capacity building on mercury waste management, including in cooperation with the BRS Secretariat, and including with respect to implementation of obligations related to the decision on the threshold for waste contaminated with mercury;
- Capacity building activities on emissions from Annex D source categories;
- Information sharing on mercury science, including the linkages with climate change and biodiversity.

I would further like to assure you that the entire Secretariat staff remains available to discuss any of these workstreams, questions you may have, or ideas for further collaboration. You may contact Marianne Bailey (marianne.bailey@un.org), Eisaku Toda (eisaku.toda@un.org), or any of the staff, including through the Secretariat's general address (mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org). I regret that I am unable to attend PAG-14 due to prior commitments. I wish you all the best for a successful meeting and your continued efforts, and convey my heartfelt best wishes for the new year.

Sincerely,

Monika Stankiewicz

Monika Stankiewicz,
Executive Secretary

To: Mr. Rodges Ankrah
Chair, Global Mercury Partnership Advisory Group

Cc: Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership