



WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL
ASIAN COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT FOR THE RATIFICATION AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY
18 TO 20 FEBRUARY 2015 – MINSK, BELARUS

1. The sub-regional workshop organized for Central and Eastern European and Central Asian countries in support for the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury was held at the Johannes Rau International Centre for Education and Exchange (Minsk International Education Centre (IBB)) in Minsk, Belarus, from 18 to 20 February 2015. Convened by the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in cooperation with the Government of Belarus, this workshop gathered representatives from sixteen Central and Eastern European and Central Asian countries, as well as IGOs and NGOs.
2. The workshop was attended by 40 participants, including 29 Government representatives, 6 representatives from intergovernmental organizations and 5 from non-governmental organizations. The following countries were represented in the workshop: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Montenegro, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The full list of participants is available in annex 2.
3. The objectives of the workshop were to further enhance participants' knowledge of the Minamata Convention and the processes for its ratification and early implementation. It also aimed at providing participants with information on the available sources of support and at creating opportunities for exchange and action at the sub-regional level. On Friday 20 February, participating countries presented the draft national roadmap for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention that they prepared during the course of the workshop. The programme of the workshop is available in annex 1. Additional information, including UNEP presentations for download, is available at www.mercuryconvention.org.

Background information:

In its resolution on arrangements in the interim period, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury, held from 10 to 11 October 2013 in Kumamoto, Japan called upon States and regional economic integration organizations to take, as soon as possible, the domestic measures necessary to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible. The Conference further requested the Executive Director of UNEP to facilitate activities at regional and country level to support implementation during the interim period in an effective and efficient manner. In response to this request, UNEP is conducting a series of workshops in the interim period until the Convention enters into force to assist countries in their process towards ratification and early implementation of their obligations under the Convention.



ANNEX 1 – WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT FOR THE RATIFICATION AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY
18 TO 20 FEBRUARY 2015 – MINSK, BELARUS

Wednesday, 18 February 2015

8.30 a.m.	REGISTRATION
Item 1. Opening of the workshop and introduction	
9.00 a.m. – 9.45 a.m.	Opening remarks: ➤ Representative of the Government of the Republic of Belarus ➤ Representative of the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
9.45 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	➤ Workshop objectives, expected outcomes and organization of work (UNEP) ➤ Tour de table - Introduction of participants, identified needs and expectations
10.30 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK
Item 2. Overview of the Minamata Convention	
10.45 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	➤ Overview of the negotiations process and major outcomes from INC6 (UNEP) ➤ Overview of the Convention and its key features (UNEP) ➤ Questions & Answers
11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	➤ Break out groups – focus on: ○ Advantages and challenges of becoming a Party to the Convention ○ Key ministries, institutions and other entities in the ratification process
12.30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
Item 2. Overview of the Minamata Convention (continued)	
1.45 p.m. – 2.15 p.m.	➤ Report back from break out groups discussion and summary of main conclusions
Item 3. Implementation of the Minamata Convention	
Item 3.1 Implementation of the Minamata Convention – Emissions and releases	
2.15 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.	➤ Key provisions of the Convention on emissions and releases (UNEP) ➤ Introduction to the UNEP mercury toolkit and e-learning platform (UNEP/UNITAR) ➤ Questions & Answers
2.45 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	➤ Presentation on emissions and releases control measures (Russian Federation) ➤ Questions & Answers
3.15 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK
Item 3.2 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM)	
3.30 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.	➤ Key provisions of the Convention on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (UNEP) ➤ Questions & Answers
3.45 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.	➤ Questions & Answers
4.15 p.m. – 5.15 p.m.	➤ Break out groups – focus on Items 3.1 and 3.2
5.15 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	➤ Report back from break out groups discussion and summary of main conclusions
6.00 p.m.	END OF DAY 1
7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.	RECEPTION



Thursday, 19 February 2015

9.00 a.m.	START
9.00 a.m. – 9.15 a.m.	➤ Recap from Day 1 discussions
Item 3.3 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Supply, trade and storage	
9.15 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	➤ Key provisions of the Convention on supply, trade and storage (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
9.30 a.m.– 9.45 a.m.	➤ Presentation on the mercury supply and trade (Kyrgyzstan) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
Item 3.4 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Waste and contaminated sites	
9.45 a.m.– 10.00 a.m.	➤ Key provisions of the Convention on waste and contaminated sites (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
10.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	➤ Presentation on the identification and management of contaminated sites ➤ Presentation on mercury waste management ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
10.30 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK
Item 3.5 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Products and processes	
10.45 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.	➤ Key provisions of the Convention on products and processes (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	➤ Presentation on mercury phase out in the chlor-alkali sector (Azerbaijan) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
Item 3.6 Implementation of the Minamata Convention – Health aspects	
11.30 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.	➤ Key provisions of the Convention on health aspects (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
11.45 a.m. – 12.15 a.m.	➤ Presentation on the Minamata Convention and health issues (WHO) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
12.15 a.m. – 1.15 p.m.	➤ Break out groups – focus on items 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6
1.15 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
Item 3. Implementation of the Minamata Convention (continued)	
2.15 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.	➤ Report back from break out groups discussion and summary of main conclusions
Item 4 Getting ready for ratification and early implementation	
2.45 p.m.– 3.45 p.m.	➤ Steps and technical modalities to follow for the deposit of the instrument of signature and ratification (UNEP) ➤ Presentation on preparations for ratification of the Minamata Convention (Russian Federation) ➤ Presentation on the situation within the EU in progressing towards ratification (Latvia) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
3.45 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	➤ Presentation on stakeholders involvement in consultative processes (IPEN) ➤ Presentation on communication tools used to address the general public and particular audiences (ZMWG) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
4.30 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK
5.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	➤ Break out groups – focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion on the key steps and priorities for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention ○ Development by each country of its draft national roadmap for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention
6.00 p.m.	END OF DAY 2



Friday, 20 February 2015

8.30 a.m.	START
Item 5. Mobilizing resources for the implementation	
8.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Provision of the Minamata Convention on financial and technical support (UNEP)➤ Presentation on GEF support in the interim period (GEF Secretariat)➤ Interventions by other stakeholders on available support➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
10.30 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK
10.45 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Break out groups continued – focus on draft national roadmap
12.30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
Item 6. Draft national roadmaps prepared by each participating country	
1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Presentation by each country of its draft national roadmap➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
4.30 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK
Item 7. Opportunities for information exchange and cooperation	
4.45 p.m. – 5.15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Tour de table on opportunities for future needs and cooperation➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
Item 8. Closure of the workshop	
5.15 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Evaluation of the workshop➤ Final remarks
6.00 p.m.	END OF THE WORKSHOP



ANNEX 2 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL
ASIAN COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT FOR THE RATIFICATION AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION
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MINAMATA
CONVENTION
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