

## **Minamata Convention on Mercury**

### **BRAZIL. Submission on the mandate of the ad hoc working group of experts on financing**

The Government of Brazil welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the work of the ad hoc working group of experts on financing established at the sixth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC-6. Bangkok, November 2014) on the specific programme referred to in article 13, paragraph 6(b).

The mandate of the ad hoc working group of experts derives from article 13, paragraph 9, of the Convention, as well as from the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (paragraph 6 of resolution 2 on financial arrangements). Hence, the ad hoc working group of experts on financing shall provide input to INC-7 with a view to forward to the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting a proposal for the hosting institution for the specific international programme referred to in article 13, paragraph 6(b), including any necessary arrangements with the hosting institution, as well as guidance on operation and duration of that programme.

The purpose of the specific international Programme is to support capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries in implementing the Minamata Convention. Accordingly, it is *specific* in the sense that its activities should be directly related to the provisions of the Convention, in particular articles 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 16.

In this regard, technical assistance should encompass the transfer of complex skills, expertise and advanced know-how from one or more party/stakeholder to another. Workshops and seminars, short-term training missions, resident advisors, staff visits, internships and specialized technical advice are all appropriate examples.

Capacity building by its turn should be a learning process for both recipients and donors of technical assistance. It should put in place systems or networks of individuals and institutions – including across borders – that work together to protect the environment and human health from the anthropogenic releases and emissions of mercury and mercury compounds. This mentioned network should promote a critical mass of human and institutional resources that goes beyond the limits of currently established approaches, nationally or regionally.

The Government of Brazil envisions a horizontal approach to the delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance under the Minamata Convention, one that moves beyond the traditional project-based, donor-recipient relationship, towards comprehensive, activity-based interactions.

Capacity building and technical assistance under the Specific International Programme should not be mistaken by or restricted to institutional strengthening, which primarily focuses on governmental institutions. While certainly welcome and indeed key to the implementation of the Minamata Convention, institutional strengthening does not cover all scales of capacity building processes. Given the characteristics of and the challenges involved in the proper management of mercury, capacity building and technical assistance to the implementation of the Convention must encompass multiple levels, actively engaging multiple stakeholders, the private sector, non-governmental entities, health workers, ASGM communities, among others.

Taking this into account, it is the view of the Government of Brazil that the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership would be the appropriate existing entity to host the specific international Programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance to developing countries.

The Financial Mechanism of the Minamata Convention is comprised of two branches, the GEF and the Specific International Programme. In defining a host institution to the specific programme, it would be desirable to do so in a manner that compliments activities financed through GEF. Financing under GEF normally entails long periods from proposal to acceptance of projects, as well as co-financing rules that may exclude some proponents from accessing funds. It would be desirable, therefore, that the specific Programme of article 13.6(b) could offer capacity-building and technical assistance on a more agile manner.

The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership would be in a more suitable position to this task, acting as a support facility for technical assistance and a hub for capacity building in developing countries – not only on the governmental level, but also involving multiple stakeholders. Its structure in thematic partnerships, mirroring to some extent the articles in the Convention, would offer a thematic approach to capacity-building and technical assistance activities. It would also operationalize the relationship between articles 13 (Financing and mechanism) and 14 (Capacity Building and Technology Transfer). This approach could also potentially multiply opportunities for South-South cooperation, exchange of information and best practices.

Under this approach, the COP would offer guidance to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, identifying specific capacity-building and technical assistance activities for the partnerships' business plans. By requesting the Partnership Advisory Group to support such activities nationally and/or regionally, it would align the work of the Partnership with the priorities identified by the COP for the implementation of the Convention.

The arrangement between the COP and the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership would further detail the terms and the operation of the Partnership as part of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention. In principle, however, it would

encompass similar elements as the draft memorandum of understanding to be signed between the COP and the GEF, with necessary adjustments, including provisions on the duration it would serve as part of the Financial Mechanism.

31 August 2015.