



# UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement    Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente  
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде    برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة  
联合国环境规划署



Email contact: [mercury.chemicals@unep.org](mailto:mercury.chemicals@unep.org)  
Ref: Minamata Convention/StL

Date: 5 June 2015

**Subject: Call for comments from Governments on the mandate of the ad hoc working group of experts on financing established at the sixth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Minamata Convention on Mercury was adopted and opened for signature at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held from 10 to 11 October 2013 in Kumamoto, Japan. The Minamata Convention provides for a financial mechanism to support developing country parties and parties with economies in transition in implementing their obligations. The financial mechanism includes the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and a specific international programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance.

In its resolution on financial arrangements, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries requested the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) “... to develop for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting a proposal for the hosting institution for the specific international programme, including any necessary arrangements with the hosting institution, as well as guidance on operation and duration of that programme”<sup>1</sup>.

At its sixth session held from 3 to 7 November 2014 in Bangkok, the INC established an ad hoc working group of experts on financing to provide input to the INC at its seventh session in implementing this decision of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries<sup>2</sup>.

Amongst others, the sixth session of the INC requested the interim secretariat to invite and compile comments from the INC parties on the above-mentioned mandate, as well as subsequently to prepare a document outlining options for hosting institutions for the specific international programme and any necessary information available on arrangements with the hosting institutions, in order to inform the work of the ad hoc working group of experts prior to its meeting.

To: INC6 Government representatives

Cc: SAICM National Focal Points  
Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva and to UNEP in Nairobi

<sup>1</sup> UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/4 - Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury, paragraph 6 of resolution 2 on financial arrangements.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/INC.6/24 - Report of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury on the work of its sixth session

The ad hoc working group of experts will comprise the two co-chairs appointed by the INC at its sixth session as well as a total of 19 experts from each of the five United Nations regional groups. Further to the call for nominations, representatives from the following countries have been designated: Egypt, Gabon and Nigeria for Africa; China, India, Japan, Jordan and Malaysia for Asia and the Pacific; Latvia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for Central and Eastern Europe; Argentina, Brazil and Cuba for Latin America and the Caribbean; the European Commission, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America for the Western European and other States. The meeting will also be supported by the presence of the Chair of the INC and, as observers, the GEF secretariat as well as technical advisors from relevant institutions that may be invited as decided by the co-chairs. The meeting will be assisted by the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention.

The ad hoc working group of experts is expected to meet once intersessionally before the seventh session of the INC. This meeting has been tentatively scheduled from 26 to 29 October 2015 in Brazil.

To facilitate the preparations of the required compilation and documents, we would appreciate the submission of comments on the mandate of the ad hoc working group of experts on financing no later than 31 August 2015. Such comments should be submitted to:

The Coordinator  
Interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury  
Chemicals Branch  
Division of Technology, Industry and Economics  
United Nations Environment Programme  
11 - 13 chemin des Anémones  
CH - 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva  
Switzerland  
Fax: (41 22) 797 3460  
E-mail: [mercury.chemicals@unep.org](mailto:mercury.chemicals@unep.org)

We look forward to your Government's comments to contribute to the further work on the Minamata Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Timothy J. Kasten  
Head ad Interim  
Chemicals Branch  
Division of Technology, Industry and Economics