

COMMUNICATION

Call for contributions for the Special and Specific Trust Funds of the Minamata Convention

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

I am pleased to update you on the work done in 2020 in relation to contributions to the Special and Specific Trust Funds of the Minamata Convention.

Special Trust Fund

Contribution to the Special Trust Fund is key to enable the Secretariat's activities supporting the implementation of the Convention. As of 31 December 2020, USD 2,386,185 has been received or pledged for activities in 2020-2021, amounting to 54.51% of the total USD 4,377,620 requested for the 2020-2021 biennium. I would like to express the appreciation to Switzerland, EU, Japan, Sweden and Norway for their generous contributions.

For the current year, I would like to invite Parties to provide further contributions to support the activities of the Convention according to its Work Programme and as presented in the latest overview of the fundraising status available on the Convention website:

http://mercuryconvention.org/Portals/11/documents/Contributions/SpecialTrustFund_2020-2021_MCV_Fundraising_December2020.pdf

In this regard, you may wish to note that the funding for supporting the participation of representatives of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-4) is secured. However, some funding is still needed to secure the participation in the planned regional preparatory meetings of COP-4.

Specific Trust Fund

Contributions to the Specific Trust Fund support the operations of the Specific International Programme (Art. 13 of the Convention). Thanks to the generous contributions from Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, two rounds of applications have been successfully concluded. Fifteen projects around the world, totaling USD 3 million, are now being implemented.

Since COP-3, Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States have pledged and contributed around USD 1,928,000 to the Specific Trust Fund, which allowed the Governing Board of the Programme to launch the Third Round of applications.

The Programme is a key component of the Convention's Financial Mechanism providing eligible Parties with direct access to grants from USD 50,000 to USD 250,000 to strengthen their national capacity to implement the Minamata Convention obligations. Further contributions to fund projects under the Third Round are very welcomed. The Governing Board can approve projects in August 2021 by the contributions received at the time.



All updates to the status of the Trust Funds of the Minamata Convention can be found following this link:
<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/Countries/Parties/Contributions/tabid/6280/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

I encourage all Parties to continue supporting the Trust Funds of the Convention. If you are interested in funding any specific activities of the Secretariat, or if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me (monika.stankiewicz@un.org).

I thank you for your commitment to the implementation of the Minamata Convention and look forward to our cooperation during 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Monika Stankiewicz

Monika Stankiewicz
Executive Secretary

To: Governments through their official channels of communication to the UN Environment Programme
Cc: National Focal Points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
Permanent Missions to the UN Environment Programme and to the UN in Geneva