

Ref.: MC/SIP/2020/60

Geneva, 15 December 2020

**Subject:** Launch of applications to the Third Round of the Specific International Programme

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am very pleased to announce that the **Third Round of applications** to the Specific International Programme was launched on 15 December 2020.

As you are already aware, the Specific International Programme forms part of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention and is set up to assist developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to support their capacity to implement their obligations under the Minamata Convention.

Since the Programme became operational in early 2018, a total of fifteen projects have been approved by the Governing Board in the First and Second Rounds, in areas ranging from phasing out mercury-added products and managing their wastes, developing national guidelines on decommissioning mercury-cell chlor-alkali facilities, and developing participatory model approaches to deploy health care workers in artisanal and small-scale gold mining communities. The Secretariat will continue to communicate project results to you as implementation advances.

The Secretariat has revised the Application Guidelines and Application Forms building on the experience from the First and Second Round of applications and taking into consideration the feedback from Parties, as well as reflections from the Governing Board. All the relevant information for the applications, including the Application Guidelines and the relevant application forms, are available on the [Minamata Convention website](#). The **Application Guidelines** are also attached to this message for your ease of reference.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Programme donors - Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Their generous support allows us to provide direct, targeted support to eligible Parties to meet their implementation needs. Additional funding will allow us to fund a greater number of successful applications from eligible Parties. I encourage governments, the private sector, foundations, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, academia, and civil society to contribute to the Specific Trust Fund managed by the Secretariat.

Applications for the Third Round must reach the Secretariat by **Thursday, 18 March 2021**. Early submissions would facilitate the completeness check, screening and appraisal work of the Secretariat in preparation for the next meeting of the Governing Board, at which time the review and approval of projects will take place.

I look forward to the results of this Round of applications and to continuing our work together to [#MakeMercuryHistory](#).

Yours sincerely,



Monika Stankiewicz  
Executive Secretary

To: National Focal Points for the Minamata Convention on Mercury  
Permanent Missions to the UN Environment Programme  
Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva



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Attachments: Application Guidelines to the Third Round of the Specific International Programme