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Geneva, 14 August 2020

**Subject:** The third anniversary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Dear Parties,

Sunday, 16 August marks the third anniversary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

I would like to thank the 123 Parties who have ratified to date and are working on the ground to implement the Convention's obligations, as well as the COP-4 President Rosa Ratnawati and Bureau members, for your work to make the Convention a success.

While three years of existence might not sound too long, the Convention in fact builds on decades of past collaboration to gather scientific and traditional knowledge and to act on it at all levels to protect the environment and human health from mercury. Therefore, the anniversary is also an opportunity for all of us to recognize the efforts of many to make a global treaty on mercury a reality and to guide its implementation based on decisions taken by the Parties at COP-1, COP-2, and COP-3.

The Secretariat would like to invite you to visit our website and follow the Convention on social media, to jointly celebrate the anniversary and hear from the UNEP Executive Director, our COP-4 President, Bureau members, stakeholders and the Secretariat staff on the importance of joint effort to [#Make Mercury History](#). By implementing the Convention, Parties also contribute to efforts throughout the world to build back better to recover from COVID-19.

As we celebrate the third anniversary of the Convention, I would like to highlight the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations on 21 September 2020. The anniversary will be marked on that day with a high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the theme, 'The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism'. Also, in the context of 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the UN launched a survey that will inform global priorities now and going forward (<https://un75.online/>), in which any one can take part.

The history of the Minamata Convention started with shared scientific knowledge on the global nature of mercury pollution. Today, the shared vision of you, the Parties, on how to best implement it will take us into a future where people can live in good health for generations to come.

Your sincerely,



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