



# MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Reference: ES communications/2018/2

11 June 2018

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to report on the outcome of the first meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which took place from 29 to 30 May 2018 in Geneva. Key mechanism under the Convention, the Committee is a subsidiary body to the Conference of the Parties, set up to promote the implementation of, and review compliance with, all provisions of the Convention. The Committee's first fifteen members were elected at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in September 2017.

At its first meeting, the Committee successfully attained its major objective, namely to elaborate the rules of procedure under which to operate, as mandated by the Convention. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, these rules of procedure will be forwarded for approval by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held from 19 to 23 November 2018 in Geneva. The Committee also agreed, after having considered certain possible elements, on the need for further terms of reference. The Committee thus requested the Secretariat to prepare proposals for consideration at its next meeting. Finally, the Committee discussed future activities that could fall under its work programme and decided to hold its second meeting during the second quarter of 2019. To conduct their discussions at the May meeting, the Committee entrusted the role of Chair to Mr. Mohamed Abdoulay Kamara from Sierra Leone, and the role of Vice-Chair, also acting as Rapporteur, to Ms. Claudia Dumitru from Romania. I would like to seize the opportunity of this communication to congratulate the Chair, the Vice-Chair and all the members of the Implementation and Compliance Committee for their hard work and dedication towards a successful outcome.

The meeting was preceded by an inspirational information-sharing session on "Experience from implementation and compliance mechanisms under selected multilateral environmental agreements". This session explored the practices and functioning of implementation and compliance mechanisms established under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, as well as the UNECE Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

Of particular pleasure to report is that the First Round of Applications to the Specific International Programme defined in Art.13 of the Convention, is now open. Eligible Parties are invited to submit applications for projects between US\$ 50,000 and US\$ 250,000 by Friday, 31 August 2018. Detailed guidelines for the applications and the application forms are available on the website of the Minamata Convention.

To: All Governments through the official channels of communications 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

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In contributing towards a successful implementation of the Minamata Convention, I very much look forward to receiving as many applications as possible for projects under the Specific International Programme, and to supporting the important work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee,

Thank you for your continuous commitment to "make mercury history"!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Rossana Silva Repetto".

Rossana Silva Repetto,  
Executive Secretary