



WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR PACIFIC COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT FOR THE RATIFICATION AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY – 19 TO 21 JANUARY 2015 – APIA, SAMOA



1. The sub-regional workshop organized for Pacific countries in support for the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury was held at the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in Apia, Samoa, from 19 to 21 January 2015. Convened by the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in cooperation with the SPREP, this workshop gathered representatives from ten Pacific countries, as well as IGOs, NGOs and other observer organizations active in the sub-region.
2. The workshop was attended by more than 40 participants, including more than 24 Government representatives, 13 representatives from intergovernmental organizations, 2 from non-governmental organizations and 1 from another organization as observer. The following countries were represented in the workshop: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. The full list of participants is available in annex 2.
3. The objectives of the workshop were to further enhance participants' knowledge of the Minamata Convention and the processes for its ratification and early implementation. It also aimed at providing participants with information on the available sources of support and at creating opportunities for exchange and action at the sub-regional level. On Wednesday 21 January, participating countries presented the draft national roadmap for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention that they prepared during the course of the workshop. The programme of the workshop is available in annex 1. Additional information, including UNEP presentations for download, is available at www.mercuryconvention.org.

Background information:

In its resolution on arrangements in the interim period, the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention on Mercury, held from 10 to 11 October 2013 in Kumamoto, Japan called upon States and regional economic integration organizations to take, as soon as possible, the domestic measures necessary to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible. The Conference further requested the Executive Director of UNEP to facilitate activities at regional and country level to support implementation during the interim period in an effective and efficient manner. In response to this request, UNEP is conducting a series of workshops in the interim period until the Convention enters into force to assist countries in their process towards ratification and early implementation of their obligations under the Convention.



ANNEX 1 – WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Monday, 19 January 2015

8.30 a.m.	REGISTRATION
Item 1. Opening of the workshop and introduction	
9.00 a.m. – 9.45 a.m.	Opening remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hon. Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Mallelegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa ➤ Kosi Latu, Deputy Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) ➤ Jacob Duer, Coordinator of the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
9.45 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Workshop objectives, expected outcomes and organization of work (UNEP) ➤ Tour de table - Introduction of participants, identified needs and expectations
10.30 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK
Item 2. Overview of the Minamata Convention	
10.45 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview of the negotiations process and major outcomes from INC6 (UNEP) ➤ Overview of the Convention and its key features (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Break out groups – focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advantages and challenges of becoming a Party to the Convention ○ Key ministries, institutions and other entities in the ratification process
12.30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
Item 2. Overview of the Minamata Convention (continued)	
1.45 p.m. – 2.15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report back from break out groups discussion and summary of main conclusions
Item 3. Implementation of the Minamata Convention	
Item 3.1 Implementation of the Minamata Convention – Emissions and releases	
2.15 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Key provisions of the Convention on emissions and releases (UNEP) ➤ Introduction to the UNEP mercury inventory toolkit and Mercury:Learn (UNITAR/ SPREP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
2.45 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preliminary assessment of mercury related issues in the Cook Islands ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
3.30 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK
Item 3.2 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM)	
3.45 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Key provisions of the Convention on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
4.00 p.m.– 4.15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mercury use in the ASGM sector in Papua New Guinea ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
4.15 p.m.– 5.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Break out groups – focus on Items 3.1 and 3.2
5.30 p.m.– 6.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Report back from break out groups discussion and summary of main conclusions
6.00 p.m.	END OF DAY 1



Tuesday, 20 January 2015

9.00 a.m.	START
9.00 a.m. – 9.15 a.m.	➤ Recap from Day 1 discussions
Item 3.3 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Supply, trade and storage	
9.15 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	➤ Key provisions of the Convention on supply, trade and storage (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
Item 3.4 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Waste and contaminated sites	
9.30 a.m.– 9.45 a.m.	➤ Key provisions of the Convention on waste and contaminated sites (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
9.45 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.	➤ Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Pacific (Phase 2) Project (Tonga) ➤ Implementation of a waste separation and recycling scheme in Palau ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
Item 3.5 Implementation of the Minamata Convention - Products and processes	
10.15 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	➤ Key provisions of the Convention on products and processes (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
10.30 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK
10.45 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.	➤ Mercury-added products in the health sector in Samoa ➤ Experience of Palau in the implementation of import control measures for ozone depleting substances ➤ Presentation on available alternatives to mercury-added products (BANToxics) ➤ Presentation on mercury phase out in dentistry (World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
Item 3.6 Implementation of the Minamata Convention – Health aspects	
11.45 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.	➤ Key provisions of the Convention on health aspects (UNEP) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
12.00 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.	➤ Minamata Convention and Health issues (WHO) ➤ IPEN and BRI Global Fish and Community Mercury Monitoring Project from fish/seafood and hair sampling (Island Sustainability Alliance CIS INC) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
12.45 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
Item 3. Implementation of the Minamata Convention (continued)	
2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	➤ Break out groups – focus on items 3.3 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 ➤ Report back from break out groups discussion and summary of main conclusions
Item 4 Getting ready for ratification and early implementation	
3.30 p.m.– 4.30 p.m.	➤ Steps and technical modalities for the deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession (UNEP) ➤ Lessons learned from the ratification of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions (BRS Secretariat) ➤ Preparations for the ratification of the Minamata Convention in the Marshall Islands ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
4.30 p.m. – 4.45 p.m.	➤ Presentation on stakeholders involvement and communication tools used to address the general public and particular audiences (BANToxics) ➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
4.45 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK
5.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	➤ Break out groups – focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion on the key steps and priorities for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention ○ Development by each country of its draft national roadmap for the ratification and early implementation of the Convention
6.00 p.m.	END OF DAY 2



Wednesday, 21 January 2015

8.30 a.m.	START
Item 5. Mobilizing resources for the implementation	
8.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Provisions of the Minamata Convention on financial and technical support (UNEP)➤ GEF support in the interim period (GEF Secretariat by skype)➤ Mercury related activities supported by SPREP in the Pacific region (SPREP)➤ Interventions by other stakeholders on available support (UNEP GEF, Ban Toxics as well as UNDP, UNIDO and UNITAR by skype)➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
10.30 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK
10.45 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Break out groups continued – focus on draft national roadmap
12.30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
Item 6. Draft national roadmaps prepared by each participating country	
1.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Presentation by each country of its draft national roadmap➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
4.30 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK
Item 7. Opportunities for information exchange and cooperation	
4.45 p.m. – 5.15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Tour de table on opportunities for future needs and cooperation➤ <i>Questions & Answers</i>
Item 8. Closure of the workshop	
5.15 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Evaluation of the workshop➤ Final remarks
6.00 p.m.	END OF THE WORKSHOP



ANNEX 2 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR PACIFIC COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT FOR THE
RATIFICATION AND EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON
MERCURY – 19 TO 21 JANUARY 2015 – APIA, SAMOA

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