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Meeting of the Ad-hoc Technical Expert Group on

Effectiveness Evaluation

Minamata Convention on Mercury

Geneva, Switzerland, 8-12 April 2019

Report of the meeting[[1]](#footnote-2)

1. The Ad-hoc Technical Expert Group on Effectiveness Evaluation had its second meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, on 8-12 April 2019.

 Opening of the meeting

1. Ms. Kateřina Šebková, Czech Republics, and Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh, Jordan, as co-chairs, welcomed the participants and opened the meeting at 9 a.m. on Monday, 8 April 2019. Ms.Rossana Silva Repetto, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, provided her opening remarks.
2. The list of participants is attached as annex. Ms. Kirsi Tuulia Toikka, Finland, and Ms. Christina Tolfsen, Norway, attended the meeting in behalf of Ms. Lone Schou, Denmark, and Ms. Silje Fagernes Anonsen, Norway, respectively.

 Organizational matters

1. The group adopted the agenda of the meeting as set out in UNEP/MC/EE.2/1.
2. The group also agreed on the organization of work as described in the annotations to the agenda as set out in UNEP/MC/EE.2/1/Add.1,including the consideration of all items in plenary, more in-depth discussion in two working groups, one on effectiveness evaluation framework chaired by Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh and the other on global monitoring arrangements chaired by Ms. Kateřina Šebková , and drafting of specific texts for the report in smaller groups. The group also noted that some general discussion is needed before the review of specific article-by-article indicators.

 Consideration of the effectiveness evaluation framework

1. The group considered the following tasks as mandated by the Conference of the Parties in its decision MC-2/11:
	1. Using the objective of the Minamata Convention, review and assess the detailed
	article-by-article process and outcome indicators in table 4 of document UNEP/MC/COP.2/INF/8. The ad hoc technical expert group will elaborate on the sources of information and baselines for those indicators, considering cost-effectiveness, practicality, feasibility and sustainability, and, on that basis, provide detailed rationales for the recommended indicators;
	2. Identify which recommended indicators require monitoring data, in particular in relation to the control measures and objectives set out in the articles of the Convention;
	3. Develop a methodology for integrating the recommended indicators with a view to providing an integrative picture of the general effectiveness of the Convention, (e.g., by use of aggregated or cross-cutting indicators); and
	4. Amend the recommended draft terms of reference of the effectiveness evaluation committee and the schedule for the first effectiveness evaluation, if needed, on the basis of the outcome of the above.

 Consideration of the monitoring arrangements

1. The group considered the following tasks as mandated by the Conference of the Parties in its decision MC-2/11:
2. Identify:
3. Which categories of the available[[2]](#footnote-3) comparable[[3]](#footnote-4) monitoring data would be most effective in providing information on global trends (distinguishing these data from data that may be of use for informing local, national and/or regional policies);
4. What monitoring data in air, water, biota, and humans could be used to assess the impact on levels and trends of mercury; and
5. The potential and limitations of the data identified, taking into account the impacts other than anthropogenic emissions and releases on these spatial and temporal trends;
6. Assess the extent to which the information reviewed meets the needs for monitoring as set out in paragraph 2 of Article 22 of the Convention and identify major gaps that could affect the usability of available data. Outline options or recommendations to enhance the comparability and completeness of the information;
7. With the aim of filling gaps in globally relevant monitoring data, for the options and recommendation outlined above, compare their cost-effectiveness, practicality, feasibility, and sustainability, global coverage, and regional capabilities to identify opportunities for future enhancements to monitoring;
8. Identify available modelling capabilities to assess changes in global mercury levels within and across different media;
9. Examine options and identify sources of data based on those options that can be used for establishing a baseline for monitoring data;
10. Provide other technical inputs and necessary information to address any additional monitoring questions that may be identified in the course of elaborating the evaluation framework; and
11. Draft terms of reference for global monitoring arrangements, including developing monitoring guidance.

 Preparation of the report on the work of the ad hoc technical expert group

1. The group considered the development of a report to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting, based on the following outline as specified in the decision MC-2/11:
	1. Executive summary
	2. Introduction
	3. Description of the effectiveness evaluation framework
	4. Proposed methodology and schedule for the evaluation
	5. Issues for further considerations, if any
	6. Annex 1: Technical information on monitoring, if any
	7. Annex 2: Draft terms of reference of the effectiveness evaluation committee
	8. Annex 3: Draft terms of reference of the global monitoring arrangements
2. The group agreed on the process to develop the report to the Conference of the Parties as follows, based on the schedule set out in decision MC-2/11, noting that this schedule means that only an advance version of the report will be available for the regional consultations.
* Monday, 22 April: Develop a zero draft of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group Report
* Friday, 24 May: Experts to develop and refine text, work bilaterally and across the two workstreams as required. All input drafted to reach the Secretariat by Friday, 24 May.
* Monday, 3 June: Co-Chairs and Secretariat to circulate a clean first draft to the members.
* Tuesday, 11 June: Group to submit comments.
* Wednesday, 26 June: Co-Chairs and Secretariat to ciruclate a clean second draft
* Friday, 5 July: Group to submit all final edits
* Monday, 15 July: Draft Ad hoc Technical Expert Group Report to be posted on the website for comment by Parties until 5 September
* Thursday, 5 September: Deadline for comments to the Secretariat
* Thursday, 12 September: Secretariat to collate comments and share with the Group
* Friday, 27 September: Advance version of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group Report to be available for regional consultations
1. The co-chairs also suggested possible elements of the draft decision by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting as follows:
* The Conference welcomes the report of the ad-hoc technical expert group.
* It adopts the effectiveness evaluation framework as set out in the report, including the terms of reference of the effectiveness evaluation committee and the timetable included therein.
* It adopts the global monitoring arrangements as set out in the report.
* It recognizes the available monitoring data and the gaps identified in the report, and encourages parties and other stakeholders to continue to obtain monitoring data and to take steps to cover these gaps.

 Other matters

1. No other matters were raised.

 Closure of the meeting

1. The co-chairs closed the meeting at 6 p.m. on Friday, 12 April 2019.

**Annex**

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1. This document has not been formally edited. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Available data cover both data presently available and future data collection. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Data are comparable when collected based on identical methodologies. Data may also be made comparable by using standardized and known scientific methodologies. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)