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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**

**List of Participants**

**I. MEMBERS**

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| **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**  Ms. Anika Aska  Agricultural Officer, Pesticides Risk Manager  Ministry Of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs (Agriculture Extension Division)  Independence Avenue and Queen Elizabeth Highway  St. John's  Antigua and Barbuda  Tel.: +2684621213  Email: anika2412@gmail.com |

|  |
| --- |
| Mr. Christian Linroy  Director, Department of Analytical Services  Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs  Friars Hill  St. John's  Antigua and Barbuda  Tel.: +2687648338  Email: linroy.christian@ab.gov.ag |

|  |
| --- |
| **ARGENTINA**  Mr. Agustín Harte  Technical Advisor - Chemicals Directorate  Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development  San Martin 451, 4to floor, office 437  Buenos Aires  Argentina  Tel.: +541143488334  Email: aharte@ambiente.gob.ar |

|  |
| --- |
| **BURKINA FASO**  Mr. Roger Baro  Directeur de la Prévention des Pollutions et des Risques Environnementaux  Point Focal Convention de Minamata  Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Economie Verte et du Changement Climatique  Avenue de l'Insurrection des 30 et 31 octobre  Ouagadougou  Burkina Faso  Tel.: +226 78812858 /+226 70755236  Email: baro.roger@gmail.com |

|  |
| --- |
| **CANADA**  Ms. Alexandra Steffen  Physical Scientist  Environment and Climate Change Canada  4905 Dufferin Street Toronto, Ontario  M3H 5T4 Toronto  Canada  Tel.: +14167394116  Email: alexandra.steffen@canada.ca |

|  |
| --- |
| **CHINA**  Mr. Minghui Zheng  Professor  Chinese Academy of Sciences, No. 18 Shuangqing Road, Haidian District  100085 Beijing  China  Tel.: +86 10 62849172  Fax: +86 10 62849339  Email: zhengmh@rcees.ac.cn |

|  |
| --- |
| **CZECH REPUBLIC**  Ms. Kateřina Šebková  Director of the National and Regional Centers RECETOX, Masaryk University, Brno  Faculty of Science, Masaryk University Kamenice 753/5  62500 Brno  Czech Republic  Tel.: +42 549493063  Email: sebkova@recetox.muni.cz |

|  |
| --- |
| **EUROPEAN UNION**  Mr. Christopher Allen  Deputy Head of Unit  European Commission  Avenue de Beaulieu 9  1160 Bruxelles  Belgium  Tel.: +32 22 99 02 61  Email: christopher.allen@ec.europa.eu |

|  |
| --- |
| **FINLAND**  Ms. Kirsi Tuulia Toikka  Ministerial Adviser  Ministry of the Environment  Aleksanterinkatu 7  Helsinki  Finland  Tel.: +35 840 552 40 54  Email: tuulia.toikka@ym.fi |

|  |
| --- |
| **GERMANY**  Mr. Rafael Zubrzycki  Scientific Officer  Geman Environment Agency  Wörlitzer Platz 1  06844 Dessau-Roßlau  Tel.: +49 034021032654  Email: [rafael.zubrzycki@uba.de](mailto:rafael.zubrzycki@uba.de) |
|  |
| **IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)**  Ms. Zahra Jabbari Barjasteh  Deputy Director General  Department of Environment  Water & Soil Bureau, Department of Environment, Pardisan Eco- Park , Hakeem highway  Tehran  Iran (Islamic Republic of)  Tel.: +982142781625  Fax: +982188233237  Email: zb.jabbari@gmail.com |

|  |
| --- |
| **ITALY**  Mr. Nicola Pirrone  Research Director  CNR-Institute of Atmospheric Pollution Research  Rende  Italy  Tel.: +39335219989  Email: nicola.pirrone@iia.cnr.it |

|  |
| --- |
| **JAPAN**  Mr. Mitsugu Saito  Deputy Director  Ministry of the Environment  1-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku  Tokyo  Japan  Tel.: (+81)355218260  Email: mitsugu\_saito@env.go.jp |

|  |
| --- |
| **JORDAN**  Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh  Director of Chemicals and Waste Management Ministry of Environment  King Faisal Bin Abdel Azez Street  11041 Aman  Jordan  Tel.: +962 77 629 629 4  Email: mkhashashneh@yahoo.com |

|  |
| --- |
| **LESOTHO**  Ms. Moleboheng Juliett Petlane  Environment Officer- Pollution Control  Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture  P.O.Box 10993 Maseru 100  Lesotho  Tel.: (+266) 22311767  Email: marleymjp@gmail.com |

|  |
| --- |
| **MEXICO**  Mr. Arturo Gavilán  Director of Research on Contaminants, Chemicals, Wastes and Biosafety  Mexican National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change  Blvd. Adolfo Ruíz Cortines 4209, Jardines en la Montaña  C.P. 14210 Mexico City  Mexico  Tel.: (+52)5554246425  Email: arturo.gavilan@inecc.gob.mx |

|  |
| --- |
| **NIGER**  Mr. Sani Mahazou  Directeur Général du Développement Durable et des Normes Environnementales  Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Salubrité Urbaine et du Développement Durable  152 Rue dar es Salam  Niamey  Niger  Tel.: (+227)20370238  Email: [mahazous@yahoo.com](mailto:mahazous@yahoo.com)  **NORTH MACEDONIA**  Mr. Trajche Stafilov  Professor  Ss Cyril and Methodius University  Institute of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Ss Cyril and Methodius University, Arhimedova 5  1000 Skopje  North Macedonia  Tel.: +38923259906  Fax: +38923228141  Email: trajcest@pmf.ukim.mk |
| **NORWAY**  Ms. Christina Tolfsen  Senior Adviser  Norwegian Environment Agency  Grensesvingen 7 P.O. Box 5672 Torgarden,  7485 Trondheim, Oslo  Norway  Tel.: +4773580500  Email: christina.charlotte.tolfsen@miljodir.no |

|  |
| --- |
| **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**  Mr. Alexander Romanov  Deputy Director General  Scientific Research Institute for Atmospheric Air Protection  7, Karbyshev. st.  Saint-Petersburg  Russian Federation  Tel.: (+7) 8123725785  Email: alexann.rm@gmail.com |

|  |
| --- |
| **SLOVENIA**  Ms. Milena Horvat  Head of the Department  Environmental Sciences  Jožef Stefan Institute  Jamova cesta 39  1000 Ljubljana  Slovenia  Tel.: +386 41 743 278  Fax: +386 1 5885346  Email: milena.horvat@ijs.si |

|  |
| --- |
| **THAILAND**  Mr. Sarawut Thepanondh  Professor  Mahidol University  420/1 Rajavithi road, Rajathevi  10400 Bangkok  Thailand  Tel.: (+66)823548540  Fax: (+66)823548540  Email: sarawut.the@mahidol.ac.th |

|  |
| --- |
| **TOGO**  Mr. Joachim Pagnibam T. Meba  Point Focal de la Convention de Minamata sur le Mercure  Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et de la Protection de la Nature  247, Rue des Nîmes  228 Lomé  Togo  Tel.: +228 90 12 33 91  Fax: +228 22 21 03 33  Email: [joaljesus@gmail.com](mailto:joaljesus@gmail.com) |

|  |
| --- |
| **URUGUAY**  Ms. Gabriela Medina Amarante  Director  Basel Convention Coordinating Centre, Stockholm Convention Regional Centre  Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment  Av. Italia 6201  115 Montevideo  Uruguay  Tel.: +598 2 601 3724 ext. 1158 / 1159  Fax: +598 2 601 3724 ext. 1157  Email: gabriela.medina@mvotma.gub.uy |

**II. OBSERVERS**

|  |
| --- |
| **BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  Mr. David Evers  Science Guidance  Biodiversity Research Institute  276 Canco Road  4103 Portland  United States of America  Tel.: +12078397600  Email: david.evers@briloon.org |

|  |
| --- |
| **EMEP**  Mr. Kjetil Tørseth  Research Director  EMEP  Instituttvn 100  Kjeller  Norway  Tel.: +4790146563  Email: kt@nilu.no |

|  |
| --- |
| **HARVARD UNIVERSITY**  Ms. Elsie Sunderland  Professor  Harvard University  29 Oxford Street  Cambridge  United States of America  Tel.: +16174960858  Fax: +16174954551  Email: ems@seas.harvard.edu |

|  |
| --- |
| **INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR COUNCIL**  Ms. Eva Kruemmel  Policy Advisor  Inuit Circumpolar Council  75 Albert St.  Ottawa  Canada  Tel.: (+)16135632642  Email: ekruemmel@scientissime.com |

|  |
| --- |
| **IPEN**  Ms. Semia Gharbi  Executive director of environment  IPEN  15 rue de Liban La Marsa  2070 Tunis  Tunisia  Tel.: +21671748692  Email: semia.gharbi@laposte.net |

|  |
| --- |
| **MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TENCHOLOGY**  Ms. Noelle Selin  Associate Professor  Massachusetts Institute of Technology  77 Massachusetts Avenue  MA 02139 Cambridge  United States of America  Tel.: +16173242592  Email: selin@mit.edu |

|  |
| --- |
| **NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**  Ms. Susan Keane  Senior Director, Global Advocacy, International Program  Natural Resources Defense Council  1152 15th St. NW, Suite 300  20005 Washington DC  United States of America  Tel.: +12022892389  Email: skeane@nrdc.org |

|  |
| --- |
| **SOLIDARIDAD**  Ms. Ada Lis Rosell Villavicencio  Country Manager  Solidaridad  Av. Roosevelt 5866  Lima  Peru  Email: adalis.rosell@solidaridadnetwork.org |

**WORLD CHLORINE COUNCIL**

Mr. Ulises Saldaña

New Project and Development Manager

World Chlorine Council

Ricardo Margaín Zozaya No. 335, Torre Equus 2, Piso 7 Col. Valle del Campestre San Pedro Garza García, N.L.

C.P. 66265 Monterrey

Mexico

Tel.: +528181582709

Fax: +528181582787

Email: [ulises.saldaña@cydsa.com](mailto:ulises.saldaña@cydsa.com)

|  |
| --- |
| **WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**  Ms. Carolyn Vickers  Coordinator, Chemical Safety  Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health  World Health Organization  20 Avenue Appia  1211 Geneva  Switzerland  Tel.: +41 22 791 12 86  Email: vickersc@who.int |

**INVITEES**

**BRS SECRETARIAT**

Ms. Katarina Magulova

Programme Officer

BRS Secretariat

11-13 Chemin des Anémones

1219 Geneva

Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 81 70

Email: katarina.magulova@brsmeas.org

**UN ENVIRONMENT**

Mr. Keneth Davis

Programme Officer

Chemicals and Health Branch

11-13 Chemin des Anémones

1219 Geneva

Switzerland

Email: [keneth.davis@un.org](mailto:keneth.davis@un.org)

Mr. Victor Estellano

Chemicals and Health Branch

11-13 Chemin des Anémones

1219 Geneva

Switzerland

Email: victor.estellano@un.org

**SECRETARIAT OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY**

Ms. Rossana Silva Repetto

Executive Secretary

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

11-13 Chemin des Anémones

1219 Geneva

Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 49 83

Email: rossana.silva-repetto@un.org

Ms. Claudia ten Have

Senior Policy Coordinator Officer

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

11-13 Chemin des Anémones

1219 Geneva

Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 86 38

Email: claudia.tenhave@un.org

Mr. Eisaku Toda

Senior Programme Officer

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

11-13 Chemin des Anémones

1219 Geneva

Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 81 87

Email: eisaku.toda@un.org

Ms. Madeeha Bajwa

Programme Management Officer

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

11-13 Chemin des Anémones

1219 Geneva

Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 25 83

Email: madeeha.bajwa@un.org

Ms. Stephanie Laruelle

Programme Officer

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

11-13 Chemin es Anémones

1219 Geneva

Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 84 39

Email: stephanie.laruelle@un.org

Ms. Pilar Gomis

Programme Management Assistant

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

11-13 Chemin des Anémones

1219 Geneva

Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 917 59 89

Email: pilar.gomisbataller@un.org

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)