

Montevideo, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**Subject: Action required to follow up on the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Geneva, Switzerland, 19-23 November 2018.**

- **Mercury waste**

Decision MC-2/2, parties and other stakeholders are invited to submit the following information, taking into account relevant information contained in the Technical Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Consisting of, Containing or Contaminated with Mercury or Mercury Compounds (UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.8/Rev.1), by 15 February 2019.

Comments:

Something that is necessary to add in the UNEP/MC/COP.2/6 document is the estimated concentration of total mercury in the examples that are given as total mercury, as a guide for further waste management.

Along with the thresholds that decide, it is necessary to indicate the methodology of sampling, conservation of the sample, the analytical technique for mercury analysis and a reference technique an material.

- **Contaminated Sites**

The secretariat submitted to COP-2 a draft Guidance on the Management of Contaminated Sites, after having invited comments from parties and other stakeholders, as set out in the annex to document UNEP/MC/COP.2/7. Decision MC-2/8 invites parties and other stakeholders to submit additional comments and information to complement and further improve the draft Guidance, calling in particular for information and comments, including case studies.

Comments:

Due to the fact that the assessment of a contaminated site could take a certain time, is necessary that a schedule of communication is designed and a set of accurate messages to address the risk communication are settled, in order not to generate alarm in the population.

During a regional mercury project in which Uruguay took part recently, we received a training for the risk communication on mercury. Communication staff of Ministries of Health and Environment were trained by the Environmental Medicine Branch, Division of Toxicology and Human Health Sciences Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

This type of training turned out to be useful at the moment of the risk communication of a contaminated site during the site close to a chloralkali facility. This facility is nearby a small town and located by a river.

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