



**Group of Technical Experts on Mercury Releases
Intersessional Work between COP 3 and 4**

Third Online Meeting
Wednesday 29 July 2020, 14h00-16h00 CEST

Summary

Participants

Ms. Bianca Hlobosile Mkhathshwa-Dlamini, Eswatini
Mr. Olubunmi Olusanya, Nigeria
Mr. James Nyirenda, Zambia
Ms. YE Jing, China
Ms. Kania Dewi, Indonesia
Mr. SUZUKI Noriyuki, Japan
Mr. Ahmed Mohammad Ajabnoor, Saudi Arabia
Mr. Ajith Priyal de Alwis, Sri Lanka
Mr. Alex Radway, European Union
Mr. Ian Marnane, European Union
Ms. Lic. Lucía Muntaner, Argentina
Ms. Zuleica Castilhos, Brazil
Mr. Cristián Enrique Brito Martínez, Chile
Mr. Carlos Calleja-Amador, Costa Rica
Mr. Darcy Walrond, Guyana
Ms. Alison Dickson, Canada
Ms. Petra Hagström, Sweden
Mr. Greg Helms, United States
Ms. Paulina Riquelme Pallamar, Chile
Ms. Eriko SUDA, Japan
Ms. Kaoru OKA, Japan
Mr. KOZUKA Shohei, Japan
Ms. KURODA Itsuki, Japan
Mr. Takashi NISHIDA, Japan
Mr. Joel Ormala, Norway
Ms. Teeraporn Wiriwutikorn, Thailand
Mr. Andrea Cararo, UNITAR
Mr. Jon Miller, Albemarle Corporation
Ms. Melissa Barbanell, ICMM
Mr. Mik Gilles, ICMM
Mr. Julian Fisher, Independent consultant (dental sector)
Mr. Seung-Whee Rhee, Kyonggi University, Republic of Korea
Mr. David Lennett, Natural Resources Defense Council

1. Opening

Eisaku Toda of the Minamata Secretariat opened the meeting, and invited Mr. Greg Helms to chair the first part of the meeting. The group adopted the agenda as circulated in advance.

2. General guidance for release inventories

The co-chair reminded the group that the group reviewed the draft at the second online meeting, and a revised version was circulated after the meeting. The comments received were circulated just before the meeting. Some parts of the draft are in italic, which are to be revised as we finalize the list of point source categories.

The group reviewed the comments and agreed on changes to the text including moving the explanation on PRTR to a footnote.

The group agreed to post the general guidance on the web for information, after confirming the revised text by email communication.

3. Review of potentially relevant point source categories

The co-chair reminded that the Secretariat revised the draft based on the agreement to develop a short list of potentially relevant point source categories, together with a longer list of other sources that may be included in the broadened release inventories. The Secretariat received comments from members and observers, which have been compiled in Document 3-3. He invited the group to discuss the structure of the document.

A number of experts emphasized that Table 2 is included in the fifth mandate from COP which is to be worked on subject to the completion of the other work items. The group agreed that Table 2 should be a separate document from the current document entitled “draft list of potentially relevant point source of mercury and mercury compounds to land and water”, and that the group will work on this after the completion of other work.

Ms. Bianca Dlamini chaired the rest of the meeting, including the review of Table 1. She started with two general comments - how to describe releases to land, and whether to retain the column “elements addressed in other articles”. An expert pointed out that these questions relate to the same issue of the releases addressed by Article 11. He observed that much of the releases to land are part of waste management, addressed by Article 11, and the table should list non-waste releases to land. Another expert noted that if leachate from landfill is collected and treated, it will be a release addressed by Article 9. There may also be diffuse releases from landfill that Parties may wish to include in the inventory. The group agreed to remove the column “elements addressed in other articles”, and add a note on Article 11 in the text introducing the table. The group did not fully discuss the text itself, and requested the Secretariat to add a placeholder.

The group then moved on to specific comments. On coal washing, it was noted that coal washing is not practiced at all facilities, and mercury may also be released from coal storage, especially in rainy climate zones. The group agreed to change “coal washing” to “coal washing and storage”.

Regarding sea-water flue-gas desulfurization, the group agreed that it is included in wet flue-gas scrubber releases.

Regarding the saturated mercury adsorbent, the group agreed that it is a waste issue and addressed by Article 11.

An expert pointed out that 5.1.6 biomass burning should include releases from fuel storage.

The group discussed the non-ferrous extraction and initial processing. Experts pointed out the following:

- Leaching is a closed process and therefore there will not be significant mercury releases from that process.
- Releases from processes related to leaching and other process still need to be examined. Global Mercury Assessment documents the releases from non-ferrous metals production.
- Lead production does not involve leaching.
- Aluminium production and alumina production are different.
- Mine tailings are covered by Article 11 as long as they are not excluded from coverage as mercury waste. If they are excluded from coverage, they are not addressed by Article 11. Parties may still wish to include it in the inventory.

The co-chair introduced the issue of production of mercury compounds, but the group did not have time to discuss this and other comments after 5.3.1. The group noted that experts who had not submitted written comments still had specific comments, and that a revised list should be circulated for continued discussion at the next online meeting. The co-chair encouraged the experts to submit comments and available information about documented releases and release estimation methods.

4. Any other business

The group agreed to meet just after the online sessions of the Basel Convention Open-Ended Working Group planned for 1 and 3 September. The Secretariat will do a Doodle poll to set up a date in the weeks of 7, 14 and 21 September.