

Ref: MC/ES/2023/96

26 September 2023

**Subject:** Invitation to submit an expression of intent to provide data and to review the draft plan for data analysis to support the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Dear Madam/Sir,

At its fourth meeting, in [decision MC-4/11](#), the Conference of the Parties agreed to begin the first effectiveness evaluation of the Convention pursuant to Article 22 of the Convention and adopted a framework as outlined in annex I to the decision.

In the same decision, the Conference of Parties established the Open-ended Scientific Group with terms of reference set out in annex II to the decision. Working in accordance with its mandate, the Open-ended Scientific Group has developed draft plans to guide the compilation of monitoring data and of emissions and releases data and is currently developing a plan to guide the analysis of data.

As a next step in the process, the Open-ended Scientific Group will start compiling and analysing available data on mercury levels in biota, water, sediment, soil, and in humans, as well as data from emissions and releases inventories, with a view to addressing the guiding questions outlined in the "*Guidance on monitoring of mercury and mercury compounds to support evaluation of the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention*".<sup>1</sup> An overview of the work carried out by the Open-ended Scientific Group during the intersessional period is available [here](#).

Accordingly, on behalf of the co-Chairs to the Open-ended Scientific Group, I am pleased to invite your country or organization, through the relevant technical experts, to:

**(a) *Submit an expression of intent to provide data to support the first effectiveness evaluation***

The expression of intent will assist the Open-ended Scientific Group to better plan for and coordinate a subsequent step for the compilation of data. Once the expressions of intent have been received, the OESG will liaise with the data providers on how the data can be accessed by, or submitted to the Open-ended Scientific Group. Ideally, one data provider will be identified for each type of data to be submitted.

Kindly note that the purpose of the expression of intent is to indicate a preliminary wish to support the effectiveness evaluation by providing data. The expression of intent is voluntary and non-binding and may be withdrawn at any time by the focal points or technical experts of the relevant country or organization at their sole discretion.

To submit an expression of intent, the data providers for each type of data to be submitted should complete the response template contained in annex 1 to this letter and email it to [mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org](mailto:mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org) as soon as possible and no later than **20 October 2023**.

**(b) *Review the draft plan for data analysis***

Parties and relevant stakeholders are invited to review and provide feedback on the "draft plan for data analysis", which was prepared by the Open-ended Scientific Group to guide the analysis of data to address the guiding questions in the monitoring guidance. The draft plan for data analysis is available [here](#).

To provide feedback on the plan, Parties and other relevant stakeholders are invited to use the template contained in annex 2 to this letter and submit it to [mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org](mailto:mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org) by **24 November 2023**.

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<sup>1</sup> Available as document [UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/12](#).



The present letter, its annexes and the plan for data analysis are available online at: <https://minamataconvention.org/en/intersessional-work-and-submissions-cop-5#sec1565>. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Manoela Pessoa de Miranda ([manoela.miranda@un.org](mailto:manoela.miranda@un.org)).

I thank you for the continued support to the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

Yours sincerely,

*Monika Stankiewicz*

Monika Stankiewicz

Executive Secretary

To: Minamata Convention National Focal Points  
Observer organizations admitted to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Cc: Members of the Open-ended Scientific Group  
Participants in the roster of experts supporting the Open-ended Scientific Group  
Representatives of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva  
Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme



## Annex 1

### TEMPLATE FOR EXPRESSING INTENT TO PROVIDE DATA TO SUPPORT THE FIRST EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Please complete a separate form for each type of data to be provided and submit expressions of intent to [mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org](mailto:mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org) as soon as possible and no later than 20 October 2023.

#### A. Contact point

Please indicate the name(s) and contact details of the person(s) whom the Open-ended Scientific Group should contact regarding the intended provision of data.

##### Primary contact point:

- A.1. Name: <Text entry>  
A.2. Email: <Email address>  
A.3. Affiliation (organization name): <Name of organization>  
A.4. Country: <Country>

##### Alternate contact point:

- A.5. Name: <Text entry>  
A.6. Email: <Email address>  
A.7. Affiliation (organization name): <Name of organization>  
A.8. Country: <Country>

#### B. Details of the data that is intended to be provided

- B.1. Brief description of the data:\* <Text entry – max. 500 words>

- B.2. Type of data:
- National inventories:**
- ☐ Emissions to air
  - ☐ Releases to land and water
- Observational / Monitoring data:**
- ☐ Air
  - ☐ Biota (animals and plants). Please explain: <Text entry>
  - ☐ Human biomonitoring
  - ☐ Soil
  - ☐ Sediments (incl. sediment cores)
  - ☐ Fresh water
  - ☐ Ocean water

- B.3. Time span: Start year: <YYYY> End year: <YYYY>  
*In case of ongoing monitoring programs, please indicate 2023 as end year.*



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B.4. Geographic scope: *Please briefly describe the geographic coverage of the data, incl. number of sites:*  
<Text entry – max. 150 words>

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**C. Conditions of use of the data that is intended to be provided**

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C.1. Data is publicly available: ☐ No  
☐ Yes  
*If yes, please indicate where:* <Text entry>

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C.2. Data is subject to a specific use license: ☐ No  
☐ Yes  
*If yes, please explain:* <Text entry>

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\* Please provide an explanation about the type of data, including details about the format of the data, frequency of observations/sampling and whether or not the data has been quality controlled, etc.



## Annex 2

### TEMPLATE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE "DRAFT PLAN FOR DATA ANALYSIS" TO INFORM THE EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

In accordance with the adopted framework for the effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as contained in annex I to decision [MC-4/11](#), Parties and relevant stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the "draft plan for data analysis", which was developed by the Open-ended Scientific Group to address the guiding questions in the monitoring guidance<sup>2</sup> and inform the effectiveness evaluation. The draft plan for data analysis is available [here](#).

Please submit feedback by e-mail to [mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org](mailto:mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org) by 24 November 2023.

<b>Contact information of the person submitting this form</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Organization:</b>	
<b>E-mail:</b>	

  

<b>General comments</b>	
This is an example of a general comment	

  

<b>Specific comments</b>	
<b>Line</b>	<b>Comment</b>
	Additional rows can be added by selecting the Table and choosing "insert" and "rows below".

<sup>2</sup> Available as document [UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/12](#).