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| **UNITED  NATIONS** |  | **MC** |
|  |  | **UNEP**/MC/COP.3/INF/22 |
| EP | **United Nations  Environment  Programme** | Distr.: General  27 September 2019  English only |

Conference of the Parties to the   
Minamata Convention on Mercury

Third meeting

Geneva, 25–29 November 2019

Item 8 of the provisional agenda[[1]](#footnote-1)\*

Venue and date of the fourth meeting of the   
Conference of the Parties

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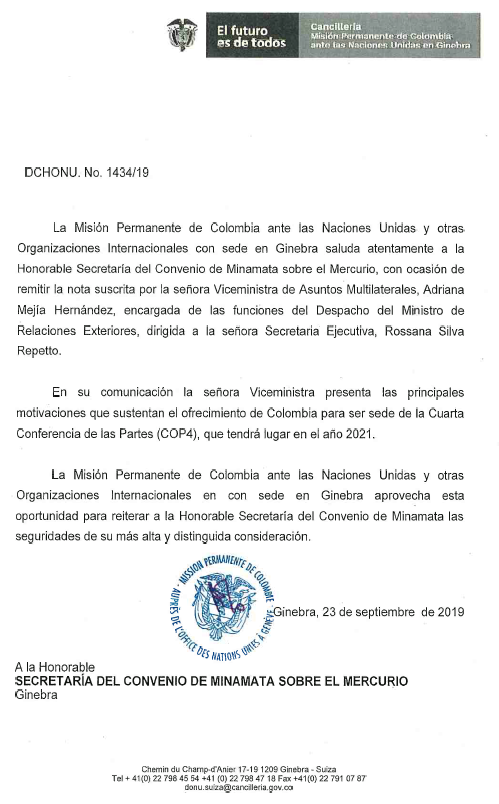
Note by the secretariat

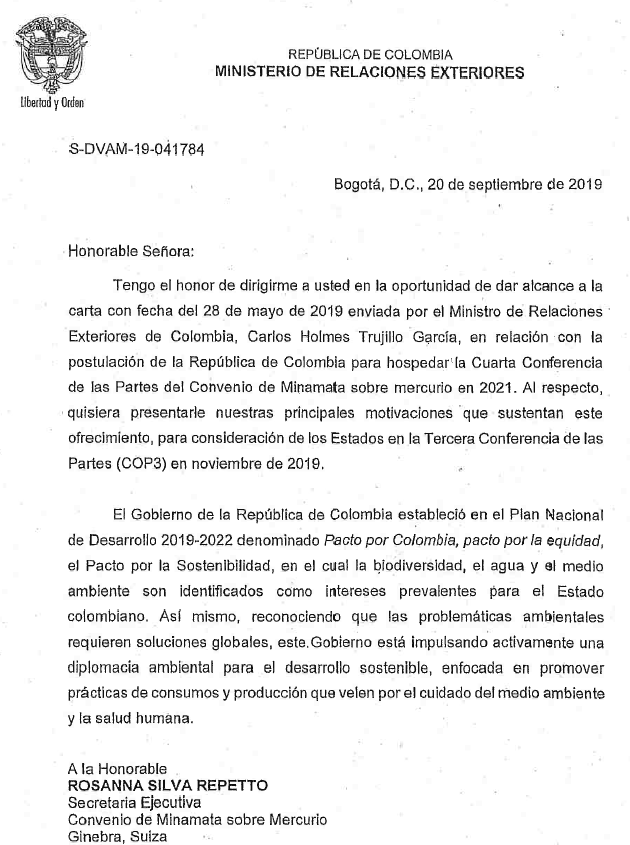
The annexes to the present note provide additional information on the offer by the Government of Colombia to host the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (see document UNEP/MC/COP.3/22). A note verbale dated 23 September 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva, and a letter dated 20 September 2019 from Ms. Adriana Mejia Hernandez, Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, regarding the offer, are set out in annex I. A translation of the same letter received by the secretariat from the Permanent Mission of Colombia is set out in annex II. The annexes are reproduced as received, without formal editing.

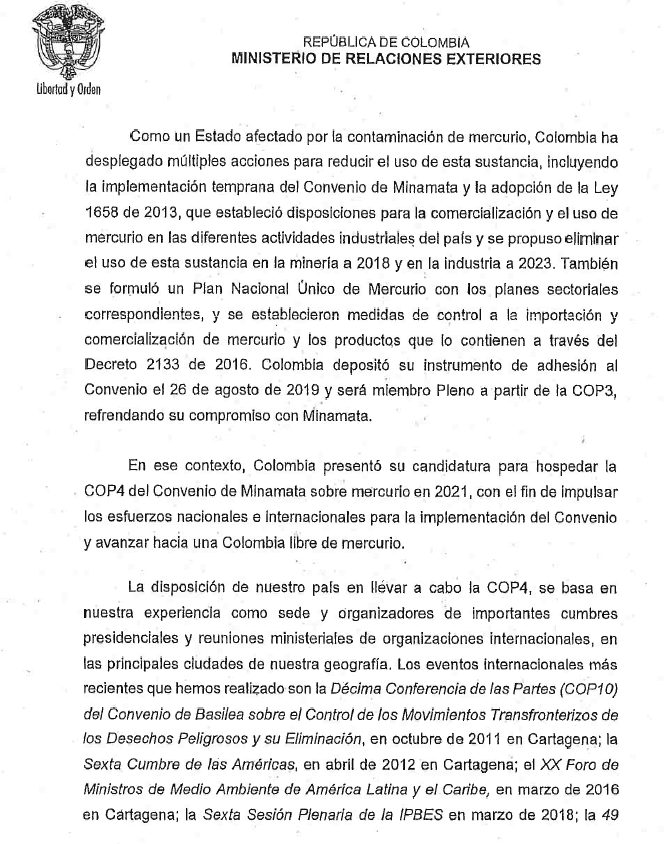
Annex I

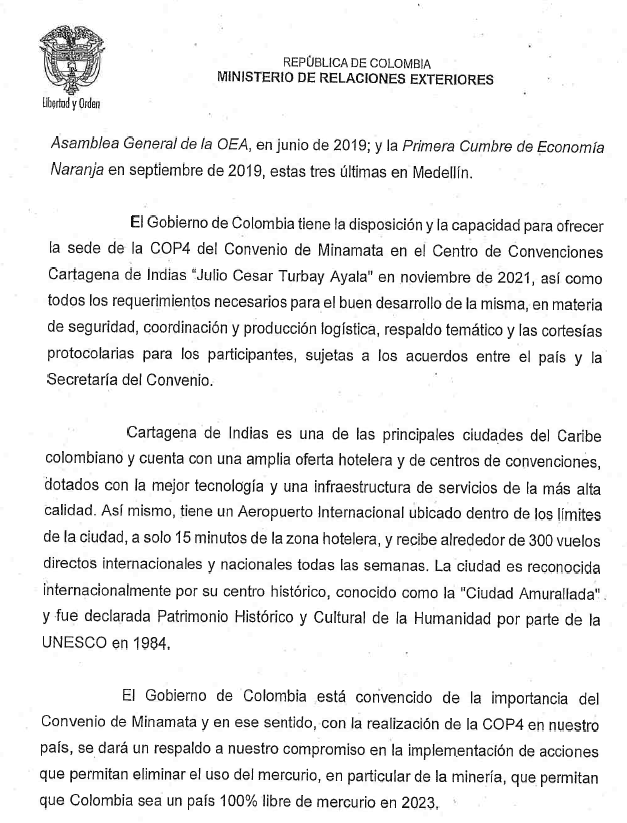
Note verbale dated 23 September 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva and a letter dated 20 September 2019 from the Vice Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia

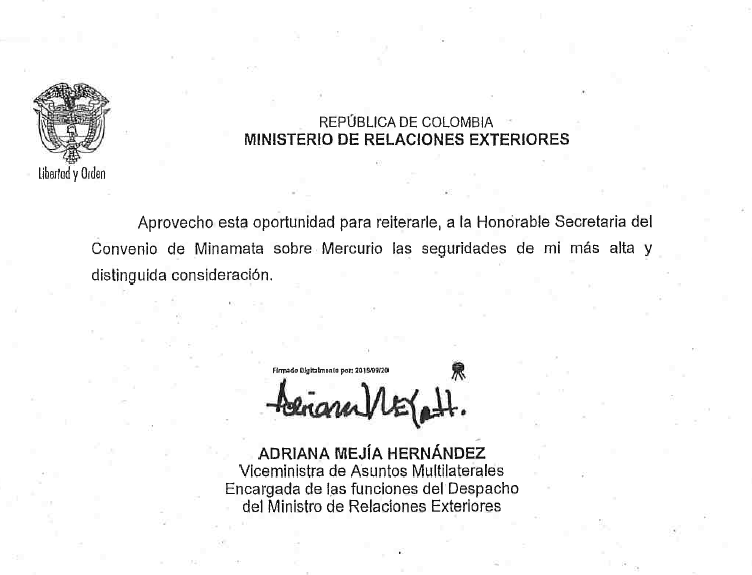
(Original in Spanish)











Annex II

Courtesy translation of the letter dated 20 September 2019 from the Vice Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia received by the secretariat from the Permanent Mission of Colombia

S-DVAM-19-041784

Bogota, D. C. September 20th, 2019

Honorable Executive Secretary:

I have the privilege to address you and follow up on the note sent the 28th of May 2019, signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Carlos Holmes Trujillo Garcia, related to the nomination of Colombia to host the 4th Conference of the Parties (COP4) of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in 2021. In that respect, I would like to present our main motivations for this offer, for consideration of the Parties in the 3rd Conference of the Parties (COP3) to be held in November 2019.

The Government of Colombia established on its National Development Plan 2018-2022, denominated “*Pact for Colombia, Pact for the equity”,* biodiversity, water and environment as prevalent interests of the nation. Furthermore, recognizing that environmental problems require global solutions, Colombia is actively promoting an environmental diplomacy for sustainable development, focused on encouraging consumption and production practices that care about the environment and human health.

To the Honorable

**ROSANNA SILVA REPETO**

Secretary Executive

Minamata Convention

Geneva, Switzerland

As a country that is seriously affected with mercury contamination, Colombia has undertaken numerous actions to reduce the use of this substance, including the early implementation of the Minamata Convention and the approval of the Law 1658 of 2013, that established measures on the use and trade of mercury as well as the elimination of its use in the mining sector by 2018 and in the industry by 2023. Colombia also formulated a National Mercury Plan, with specific sector planning, as well as trade controls on mercury and mercury added products, defined by the Decree 2133 of 2016. The country deposited the instrument to ratify the Convention the 26th of August 2019, to become a Party from COP3 on, reaffirming its compromise with Minamata.

In this context, Colombia presented its nomination to host the COP4 in 2021, with a view to strengthen national and international efforts to implement the Minamata Convention and advance towards a mercury-free world.

Colombia is prepared to host this COP, considering its experience as venue and organizer of important presidential and ministerial summits and meetings of international organizations at its main cities. Some recent events hosted by the country include the *10th COP of the Basel Convention (Cartagena, October 2011),* the *6th Americas Summit (Cartagena, April 2012),* the *20th Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Cartagena, March 2016),* the *6th IPBES Plenary Session (Medellin, March 2018),* the *49th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (Medellin, June 2019)* and the *1st Orange Economy Summit (Medellin, September 2019).*

The Government of Colombia is ready to host COP4 at the Cartagena de Indias Convention Center in November 2021, with all the necessary requirements for its successful making, including in terms of security, logistics, thematic support and courtesies for participants, subject to the agreements between the Country and the Convention Secretariat.

Cartagena de Indias is one of the main cities of the Caribbean region and it provides a wide offer of hotels and convention centers, all of them equipped with the best technologies and high-quality services infrastructure. The city has an International Airport located only 15 minutes away from the touristic zone, that receives around 300 direct flights every week, including national and international ones. Cartagena is well known for its historic center architecture and for being a World Heritage Site, as declared by UNESCO in 1984.

The Government of Colombia is convinced of the importance of the Minamata Convention and in this sense, hosting COP4 in our country would support our compromise on implementing actions to eradicate the use of mercury, especially from the mining sector, in order to achieve a Colombia 100% free of mercury in 2023.

I avail itself this opportunity to renew to the Honorable Secretary the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

**Adriana Mejia Hernandez**

Vice Minister for Multilateral Affairs,

Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs

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1. \* UNEP/MC/COP.3/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)