



MINAMATA  
CONVENTION  
ON MERCURY

Distr.: General

4 July 2023

English only

---

**Conference of the Parties to the  
Minamata Convention on Mercury  
Fifth meeting**

Geneva, 30 October–3 November 2023

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**International cooperation and coordination**

**Cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the  
Minamata Convention on Mercury and of the Basel, Rotterdam  
and Stockholm conventions**

**Note by the secretariat**

Annex I to the present note sets out a report on the main joint activities undertaken in 2022 and 2023 by the secretariats of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm conventions Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in areas of mutual interest. The report was prepared jointly by the two secretariats and is presented without formal editing. Annex II to the present note contains an outline of the main joint activities planned for 2023 and the biennium 2024–2025, developed by the two secretariats and presented here without formal editing. The report and the outline have been updated since being submitted to the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their respective 2023 meetings in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/36–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/40. This note complements the note by the secretariat on cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions contained in document UNEP/MC/COP.5/22.

---

\* UNEP/MC/COP.5/1.

**Annex I\*****Joint report on cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention****I. Introduction**

1. At its fourth meeting in March 2022, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention adopted decision MC-4/9 on enhanced cooperation between the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BRS Secretariat). In that decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention to continue, with the BRS Secretariat and under the overall steering of the task force and inter-secretariat working groups, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, technical assistance and technical matters, in accordance with the programme of work and budget, and to explore potential ways to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration on such matters with the BRS Secretariat. In the same decision, the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention was requested to continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services from the BRS Secretariat on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programme of work and budget for each biennium.

2. At their meetings in June 2022, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions BC-15/24, RC-10/13 and SC-10/20 on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in response to decisions MC-3/11 and MC-4/9 which were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention as referred above. In those decisions, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, among other things, requested the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to continue, with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and under the overall steering of the task force, inter-secretariat working groups, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, technical and technical assistance matters, in accordance with the programmes of work and budgets, and to explore ways to further strengthen the cooperation and collaboration with the Minamata Convention. The Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions was also requested to continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programmes of work and budgets for each biennium. At their meetings in May 2023, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions considered a report on the main cooperative activities undertaken by the two secretariats in 2022 and 2023 and an outline of future cooperation pursuant to decisions BC-15/24, RC-10/13 and SC-10/20.<sup>1</sup> Following their consideration of the report and outline, the three conferences of the Parties adopted decisions BC-16/21, RC-11/8, SC-11/20 on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury which, among other things, recall decisions BC-15/24, RC-10/13 and SC-10/20 on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The present report summarizes the main cooperation and coordination activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the BRS Secretariat in areas called for in decisions of the respective conferences of the Parties, namely decisions MC-4/9, BC-15/24, RC-10/13 and SC-10/20.

**II. Programmatic cooperation****A. Outreach, communication and event coordination**

3. Several awareness-raising events have been jointly organized between the secretariats, such as chemicals and waste negotiator briefings that are facilitated by the Geneva Environment Network.

4. The secretariats have continued to plan for the organization of joint regional preparatory meetings, or of information sessions back-to-back to regional preparatory meetings, in advance to

---

\* The annex has not been formally edited.

<sup>1</sup> The report which was submitted to the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/36–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/40, Annex I) was an earlier version of the present report presented to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the conventions. The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention provided an update on developments occurring under the Convention to the four regional meetings held in March 2023 in preparation for the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions will provide a similar update to the four regional meetings scheduled to be held in September and October 2023 in preparation for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

5. In order to ensure sound planning of meetings in the chemicals and waste cluster, the secretariats exchanged information on their planned meetings and events on a monthly basis through the BRS joint meeting calendar. UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch also took part in this internal information sharing and planning exercise.

6. Regarding the joint efforts to highlight the contributions of the conventions to broader environmental agendas and to promote awareness of the chemicals and wastes conventions and their linkages to climate change and biodiversity, including the Global Biodiversity Framework, the secretariats made joint submissions, which set out relevant decisions of the 2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties of the four conventions and the reports referred therein, to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held from 7 to 19 December 2022, in Montreal, Canada, and the twenty-seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held from 6 to 20 November 2022, in Sharm-El-Sheik, Egypt.

7. The two secretariats also attended the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to promote awareness of the chemicals and wastes conventions and their linkages to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at that meeting.

8. The two secretariats have shared best practices and lessons learned in the organization of more sustainable events. This has included the development of communication materials and the implementation of zerowaste initiatives.

## **B. Financial resources**

9. The secretariats have cooperated and coordinated on procedures and approaches established under the respective financial mechanisms of the Stockholm Convention and the Minamata Convention. As part of the cooperative activities undertaken, joint discussions between the secretariats of the GEF, the BRS conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM were organized on a regular basis in the context of meetings of the Chemical and waste focal area task-force organized by the GEF secretariat. The secretariats are also collaborating on joint activities with InforMEA to standardize the automated harvesting of public data related to GEF projects and other sources, and visualize them in a harmonized manner in databases and dashboards, with interoperability principles for the exchange of information between platforms.

10. The secretariats have continued cooperation under the implementation of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM. Cooperation on issues pertaining to the Special Programme took place as part of an internal task team consisting of representatives of the BRS Secretariat, the Minamata Convention Secretariat, SAICM and the GEF to assist the Special Programme Secretariat to review and appraise applications received, to participate in application webinars, and to inform the Executive Board of the Special Programme of relevant developments under the four conventions.

## **C. Implementation and compliance**

11. The experience and practice of the Basel Convention's Implementation and Compliance Committee were a valuable source of guidance for the preparation of the third meeting of the Minamata Convention's Implementation and Compliance Committee, which was held online on 7 and 8 June 2021, in particular with respect to the issue of national reporting.

12. At its inaugural meeting, the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee agreed to explore lessons from implementation and compliance bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements, including that of the Minamata Convention, that could inform the initiation of the work of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 13 of Annex VII to the Rotterdam Convention.

13. The Minamata Convention and BRS secretariats were joint organizers with other secretariats of MEAs administered by UNEP of a side event celebrating 35 years of compliance mechanisms to be held in the margins of the UNEA special session “UNEP@50” (Nairobi, 4 March 2022).

14. The work programme for 2024–2025 of the Basel Convention’s Implementation and Compliance Committee directs the Committee to establish a dialogue and coordinate with, among others, other multilateral environmental agreements such as the Minamata Convention on Mercury, on their activities aimed at supporting Parties in preventing and combating illegal traffic and develop recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat has initiated preparations for the convening of a dialogue during the sixteenth meeting of the Committee to be convened in 2024.

#### **D. Technical assistance (including regional centres)**

15. The Minamata Convention Secretariat has cooperated with many of the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres in the design and delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance activities, including those conducted through the financial mechanism. Examples include:

- (a) Global workshop on mercury-added products and related regional and sub-regional efforts, including on import and export controls, held on 21-23 June 2023, funded by the European Union;
- (b) GEF ISLANDS (Implementing Sustainable and Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS) programme;
- (c) Specific International Programme (SIP) regional project, “Strengthening the legal framework and institutional capacities of ECOWAS countries (led by Senegal with Togo and Burkina Faso) for the implementation of Articles 3 and 4 of the Minamata Convention”;
- (d) SIP project in Indonesia, “Improving Health Risk Control of Mercury Exposure in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) and Surrounding Areas by Developing the “Participatory Approach” Model”;
- (e) SIP project in Argentina, “Capacity Building Programme for the implementation of the Minamata Convention”, completed.

16. The agenda of the annual joint meeting of the directors and coordinators of the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres held from 7 to 9 November 2022, in Geneva, Switzerland, included an item on cooperation with the Minamata Convention for the regional delivery of technical assistance on issues relating to chemicals and waste MEAs. Information on mandates related to cooperation between the BRS conventions and the Minamata Convention was provided along with an overview of the technical assistance needs of Parties under the Minamata Convention. Representatives of the Minamata Convention Secretariat participated in that session and exchanged with regional centres.

17. With respect to delivery of technical assistance, the Minamata Convention Secretariat organized, in cooperation with the BRS Secretariat, a number of “Minamata Online” Season 3 sessions on the Basel Convention’s technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds in October 2022.

18. The Minamata Convention and BRS secretariats, with the financial support from Switzerland, have also initiated work to develop training materials and delivery of online training events to disseminate the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds.

19. In addition, the Minamata Convention and BRS secretariats both participated in the Programme on Capacity Building related to MEAs in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP MEAs Programme) implemented by UNEP and FAO. Within the context of the ACP MEAs Programme, both secretariats participated in and made presentations during the project steering committee meeting held on 19 and 20 October 2022.

20. Both conventions’ secretariats have also participated in an online course on implementation of MEAs organized by the Law Division and the Centre for Governance and Sustainability of the University of Massachusetts.

21. Thanks to the generous financial support of Switzerland and Germany, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions organized trainings of potential chairs and negotiators for meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on 6-8 and 8-10 February 2023. Given the cross-cutting nature of the training and its relevance to the chemicals and waste cluster in

general, a number of participants who are involved in the work of SAICM, the Minamata Convention, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the intergovernmental negotiating committee to establish a new treaty on plastic pollution, were invited to participate. Two participants nominated by the Minamata Convention Secretariat attended the training.

## **E. Gender**

22. The Minamata Convention Secretariat cooperated with the BRS Secretariat on gender mainstreaming, seeking the sharing of BRS experience in the development of the BRS Gender Action Plan, for the preparation of a gender action plan for the Minamata Convention in response to decision MC-4/10 on gender mainstreaming, to be submitted for consideration by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in November 2023.<sup>2</sup>

## **F. Trade control of elemental mercury**

23. Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention lists mercury compounds, including inorganic mercury compounds, alkyl mercury compounds and alkyloxyalkyl and aryl mercury compounds as pesticides. However, elemental mercury is currently not listed in Annex III.

24. In accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 5 of the Rotterdam Convention, the BRS Secretariat has received four notifications of final regulatory action for mercury from Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. These notifications met the requirements of Annex I to the Convention and were received from Parties from the following three prior informed consent regions: Asia (Indonesia); Europe (European Union and Türkiye); and Latin America and the Caribbean (Colombia). The BRS Secretariat has forwarded these notifications to the Chemical Review Committee for its consideration at its nineteenth meeting, scheduled to take place in Rome from 3 to 6 October 2023. The BRS Secretariat has also provided the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention with information regarding these notifications and the possible implications of listing mercury in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention.

## **G. Mercury wastes**

25. Article 11 of the Minamata Convention provides that Parties shall take appropriate measures so that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner taking into account the technical guidelines developed under the Basel Convention. The technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2015 and updated in 2022<sup>3</sup>. Both secretariats cooperated, with the involvement of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, to support Parties to the Basel and Minamata conventions in the use of those guidelines through online and in-person events.

26. In line with decision BC-14/8, the members of the small intersessional working group small intersessional working group (SIWG) which was established to update the technical guidelines on mercury wastes were to cooperate with the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds established by decision MC-2/2.

27. By decision MC-4/6 on mercury waste thresholds, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention extended the mandate of the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds until the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

28. Pursuant to those decisions, the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention had participated in the work of the SIWG on updating technical guidelines on mercury wastes which were adopted by the COP to the Basel Convention in June 2022. The BRS Secretariat participated in the activities of the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds, including its face-to-face meeting in February 2023, to facilitate information exchange. Several members of the previous SIWG on the updating of the technical guidelines on mercury wastes are also members of the expert group, which could enhance coherence between the two tracks of work.

29. At the above-mentioned meeting, the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds under the Minamata Convention agreed to recommend to the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention at its fifth meeting, among other things, to establish a threshold for mercury wastes falling under sub-category 2 (c) of article 11, presenting three possible threshold values for the

<sup>2</sup> For more information on gender mainstreaming see UNEP/MC/COP.5/18.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.6/Rev.1.

Conference to decide. The group agreed on other recommendations in relation to the thresholds, with some of those recommendations being relevant to the Basel Convention. One recommendation highlights the need for work to be carried out, in collaboration with the relevant bodies of the Basel Convention, to provide further legal clarity with respect to the provisions governing the transport of mercury waste across international boundaries pursuant to paragraph 3 (c) of article 11.

30. In connection with this work, both secretariats are exchanging information and cooperating, particularly on the issue of the interface between the provision set out in paragraph 3 (c) of article 11 of the Minamata Convention and the control regime of the Basel Convention for transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

31. Furthermore, the secretariats exchanged information in preparation of the organization of a side event on mercury waste management, held on 9 May 2023 during the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, which was organized by Burkina Faso and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, and co-organized with Switzerland, UNEP and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

## **H. Knowledge and information management**

32. The secretariats have continued their collaboration in the context of the InforMEA initiative by sharing tools, experiences and best practices on knowledge management, in particular in developing standards to exchange information on projects, in using shared taxonomies management tools and sharing knowledge on how to visualize data on national reporting dashboards. The secretariats also collaborated in the organisation of a side event during the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in conjunction with CITES, InforMEA and the Geneva Environment Network. Under the title "Unlocking MEAs' Potential: Supporting Parties' Environmental Action through Data and Knowledge Management," this event was an opportunity to share information on knowledge management initiatives under various multilateral environmental agreements.

## **III. Sharing and purchase of secretariat services**

33. The secretariats have continued to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services from one another in 2022 and 2023, on a cost recovery basis, in accordance with the programme of work and budget of each respective convention. The BRS Secretariat provided secretariat services to the Minamata Convention Secretariat for the organization of the in-person segment of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

34. The Minamata Convention Secretariat provided services to the BRS Secretariat for the holding of the 2022 and 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The sharing of servicing was done through the signature of cooperation agreements specifying the services to be provided and the associated budget. The services shared or purchased included document management, registration support and public awareness and outreach.

35. The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention has requested services from the BRS Secretariat for the organization of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, to be held from 30 October to 3 November 2023 in Geneva.

## Annex II\*

### **Stable framework for cooperation between the secretariats of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions: outline of future activities**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. At its fourth meeting in March 2022, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention adopted decision MC-4/9 on enhanced cooperation between the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BRS Secretariat). In that decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention to continue, with the BRS Secretariat and under the overall steering of the task force comprising the secretariats of the Minamata Convention and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and inter-secretariat working groups, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, technical assistance and technical matters, in accordance with the programme of work and budget, and to explore potential ways to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration on such matters with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. In the same decision, the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention was requested to continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services from the BRS Secretariat on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programme of work and budget for each biennium.

2. At their meetings in June 2022, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions BC-15/24, RC-10/13 and SC-10/20, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in response to decisions MC-3/11 and MC-4/9 which were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention. In those decisions, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, among other things, requested the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to continue, with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and under the overall steering of the task force, inter-secretariat working groups, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, technical and technical assistance matters, in accordance with the programmes of work and budgets and to explore ways to further strengthen the cooperation and collaboration with the Minamata Convention. The Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions was also requested to continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programmes of work and budgets for each biennium. At their meetings in May 2023, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions considered a report on the main cooperative activities undertaken by the two secretariats in 2022 and 2023 and an outline of future cooperation pursuant to decisions BC-15/24, RC-10/13 and SC-10/20.<sup>1</sup> Following their consideration of the report and outline, the three conferences of the Parties adopted decisions BC-16/21, RC-11/8, SC-11/20 on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury which, among other things, recalls decisions BC-15/24, RC-10/13 and SC-10/20 on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

3. In their 2022 decisions, the conferences of the Parties to the Minamata Convention and to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, requested the respective executive secretaries of the conventions to report on the implementation of those decisions, including on a stable framework for cooperation and for the sharing of services, providing an outline of the cooperation activities planned under such a framework for the biennium 2024–2025, for the consideration by the respective conferences of the Parties at their 2023 meetings.

4. The outline sets out in the present note summarizes the main future programmatic and administrative cooperation and coordination activities that are planned to be jointly undertaken, under the stable framework for cooperation, by the secretariats of the Minamata Convention and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in areas called for in decisions MC-3/11, BC-15/24,

---

\* The annex has not been formally edited.

<sup>1</sup> The report which was submitted to the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/36–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/40, Annex I) was an earlier version of the present report presented to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

RC-10/13 and SC-10/20 and as further identified and mapped by the abovementioned task force.<sup>2</sup> A number of those activities will be carried out with generous voluntary financial support from donors.

5. The outline highlights the work of UNEP in relevant areas of cooperation which supports the two secretariats in their efforts to enhance their cooperation.

## **II. Programmatic cooperation**

### **A. Outreach, communication and event coordination**

6. The secretariats will continue to organize joint briefings to permanent missions in Geneva, through regular chemicals and waste negotiator briefings that are facilitated by the Geneva Environment Network.

7. The secretariats will continue to plan for the organization of joint regional preparatory meetings, or of information sessions back to back to regional preparatory meetings, in advance to meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the conventions.

8. The secretariats will continue to produce a shared calendar of events that are relevant to the implementation of the respective conventions, through the BRS joint meeting calendar. UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch will continue to take part in this internal event planning exercise.

9. The secretariats will continue to coordinate efforts to highlight the contributions of the conventions to other processes within the chemicals and waste cluster, as appropriate, e.g., the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and on broader environmental agendas, such as climate change and biodiversity. On the former process, both secretariats take part in the UNEP internal task-force on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

### **B. Financial resources**

10. The secretariats cooperate and coordinate on procedures and approaches established under the respective financial mechanisms of the Minamata Convention and the Stockholm Convention. Joint discussions between the secretariats of the GEF, the BRS conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM will continue to take place on a regular basis in conjunction with regular meetings of the Chemical and waste focal area task-force organized by the GEF Secretariat. In addition, together with the GEF and SAICM secretariats, the two secretariats will continue to hold regular meetings on communications and knowledge management with a view to improving public awareness on the technical approaches and results of GEF investments in the chemicals and waste focal area.

11. The secretariats will continue cooperation under the implementation of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM. Cooperation on issues pertaining to the Special Programme will continue to take place as part of an internal task team consisting of representatives from the secretariats of the BRS conventions, the Minamata Convention, SAICM and the GEF to assist the Special Programme Secretariat to review and appraise applications received.

### **C. Implementation and compliance**

12. The experience and practice of the Basel Convention's Implementation and Compliance Committee continue to be a valuable source of guidance for the preparation of the next meetings of the Minamata Convention's Implementation and Compliance Committee, in particular with respect to the issue of national reporting. The exchange of information between the secretariats and the committees is expected to continue in this area in the future, including with the Rotterdam Convention's Compliance Committee which has a specific mandate for information sharing with compliance committees under relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

---

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/67–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/46–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/43.



13. The adopted work programme of work of the Basel Convention's Implementation and Compliance Committee for 2024–2025 includes a specific activity calling for cooperation with compliance bodies of other MEAs, such as the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in the context of preventing and combating illegal traffic<sup>3</sup>.

#### **D. Technical assistance (including regional centres)**

14. The Minamata Convention Secretariat will continue to cooperate with the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres in the design and delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance activities, including those conducted through the financial mechanism. Efforts to enhance cooperation with the regional centres in the delivery of technical assistance under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention will continue, e.g., through annual meetings of the regional centres.

15. Regarding the trainings organized by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for potential chairs and negotiators for meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, involving participants from SAICM, the Minamata Convention, the Montreal Protocol and the intergovernmental negotiation committee to establish a new treaty on plastic pollution, similar activities will be organized in the future, including exploring joint activities, subject to the availability of funding.

16. With respect to delivery of technical assistance, the secretariats will make use of joint participation in relevant capacity-building activities, including projects, workshops and online training events, as appropriate, to expand the dissemination of, and understanding of, guidance documents, tools, and training materials. Cooperation between secretariats will continue under technical assistance activities implemented by others, for instance under the Programme on Capacity Building related to MEAs in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP MEAs Programme) implemented by UNEP and FAO, and the online course on implementation of MEAs organized by UNEP Law Division and the Centre for Governance and Sustainability of the University of Massachusetts. It is anticipated that collaboration between secretariats will also be pursued under the umbrella of future activities planned by UNEP Law Division on enhancing synergies across clusters.

#### **E. Gender**

17. The Minamata Convention Secretariat will continue to benefit from the experience of the BRS Secretariat with respect to the activities undertaken to mainstream gender within the programme of work of the Minamata Convention. Both secretariats will continue to share experience and lessons learned in the field of gender mainstreaming in line with relevant mandates from the conferences of the Parties. In addition, the BRS and Minamata secretariats will both continue to participate in the MEAs gender focal points network convened by UNEP Law Division to promote collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

#### **F. Trade control**

18. The BRS and Minamata conventions have provisions to control international trade, including restriction of import and export and prior informed consent. Customs offices of Parties to the conventions need to be involved in the enforcement of those trade provisions. Both secretariats participate in the UNEP Green Customs Initiative (GCI) to support customs and trade control authorities, together with other MEAs and intergovernmental organizations. Specific activities through GCI include the publication of the Green Customs Guide, information exchange on customs codes, and delivery of trainings for customs officers. Exchanges of information and experience on trade control measures and illegal traffic and trade in chemicals and hazardous and other wastes will continue to take place in the future.

19. The BRS Secretariat will continue to share information with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in relation to notifications of final regulatory action for mercury, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 5 of the Rotterdam Convention, and the outcomes of their consideration by the Chemicals Review Committee at its nineteenth meeting.

---

<sup>3</sup> The Committee is to “Establish a dialogue and coordinate with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, relevant international organizations and compliance bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements on their activities aimed at supporting Parties in preventing and combating illegal traffic and develop recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties”.

## G. Mercury wastes

20. Article 11 of the Minamata Convention provides that Parties shall take appropriate measures so that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner taking into account the technical guidelines developed under the Basel Convention. The technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2015 and updated in 2022<sup>4</sup>. Both secretariats will continue their cooperation, with the involvement of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, to support Parties to the Basel and Minamata conventions in the use of those guidelines through online and in-person events. Such cooperation will continue in 2023 through the development of training materials and delivery of online training events.

21. The Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, in its decision MC-2/2, established a group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds, which continues to work on thresholds for waste contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds towards the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to decision MC-4/6 on mercury waste thresholds. The BRS Secretariat is expected to continue to contribute technically to the consideration of the thresholds by the group and by the Conference of the Parties, in particular with regard to the interface between the provision set out in paragraph 3 (c) of article 11 of the Minamata Convention and the control regime of the Basel Convention for transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes. Once all the relevant thresholds are established, both secretariats will cooperate in supporting Parties in identifying and managing mercury waste.

22. In addition, both secretariats will continue to cooperate on the issue of mercury wastes under the framework of UNEP Global Mercury Partnership.

## H. Knowledge and information management

23. The BRS Secretariat will continue collaborating with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention by sharing experiences and best practices on knowledge management as well as by developing tools and interfaces for automated data and information exchange as part of the InforMEA initiative hosted by UNEP.<sup>5</sup>

24. Under the framework of InforMEA, the main activities identified for further collaboration are:

- (a) Sharing experiences from the clearing-house mechanism to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge management tools;
- (b) Researching and implementing best practices in knowledge management;
- (c) Developing automated application programming interface (API) testing tools<sup>6</sup> to meet new needs;
- (d) Utilizing taxonomies and terminology to tag content and improve information retrieval;
- (e) Sharing experiences on developing e-learning courses;
- (f) Exploring ways to visualize data on national reporting dashboards;
- (g) Collaborating with other MEAs and entities through InforMEA to develop tools and standards for project data;
- (h) Utilizing Artificial Intelligence to explore data mining capabilities.

## I. Environmental sustainability

25. The secretariats will cooperate in the development of environmental sustainability policies and management schemes for the respective secretariats, based on the [UN 2020–2030 Strategy for sustainability management](#) and relevant policies developed by the Environment Management Group and the Sustainable United Nations facility. The scope of those policies and management schemes is still being defined, but will certainly include guidance for the secretariats and Parties on the

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.6/Rev.1.

<sup>5</sup> [www.informea.org](http://www.informea.org).

<sup>6</sup> API automation testing is a type of automated testing that focuses on the performance and functionality of APIs. This process can test APIs for correctness, compatibility, and efficiency. API automation testing can ensure that APIs function properly and meet consumers' expectations.

organisation of green events, including on travelling and management of meeting venues. Since both secretariats are currently developing their environmental sustainability policies, collaboration will also extend to updating the respective policies based on shared lessons learned.

### **III. Sharing and purchase of secretariat services**

26. In accordance with respective decisions of the conferences of the Parties, the two secretariats will continue the sharing and purchase of secretariat services in the biennium 2024-2025, on a cost recovery basis and pursuant to the adopted programmes of work and budgets.

---