



20 November, 2018

IPEN intervention releases

Given by Lee Bell

Thank you, Mr. President,

The proposed draft decision on releases should be reconsidered by the COP. It has been noted that only 3 countries submitted information relating to sources of releases under Article 9 of the Convention, during the intersessional period. This lack of submissions is used as the basis to propose that no work should be undertaken to develop BAT / BEP guidance for releases until the first full reports are received from Parties on the 31st of December 2021. Even under the most optimistic of circumstances that would result in no guidance on anthropogenic releases of mercury even being considered by a Minamata Convention COP until late 2022 or even later.

IPEN suggests it would more useful to decouple the issue of Party submissions acting as a trigger for BAT / BEP guidance development for mercury releases. There is sufficient global expertise available right now to draft a comprehensive compilation of sources of mercury releases to allow BAT / BEP release guidance development to commence almost immediately. This could be supplemented by a compilation by the Secretariat for use by Parties. A large range of release sources can be identified relatively quickly, and the guidance can be developed based on that material. If necessary, the guidance can be updated to include newly identified release sources after the submission of reports by the Parties in 2021 following a similar process for guidance review used in the Basel convention.

Despite the current lack of submissions, most competent authorities of Parties could readily identify a range of industrial and other sources of mercury in their jurisdictions to which BAT / BEP measures could be applied. If such guidance is commenced now, it could be available for consideration or even adoption on a provisional basis by COP 3. This would mean that many Parties would be able to start reducing polluting mercury releases three years earlier than the scenario that would evolve based on the proposed draft decision.

IPEN urges Parties to decouple the consideration of Party submissions from release guidance development and approve the commencement of guidance development at this meeting.

Thank you.