



IPEN Quick Views

Minamata COP 4.1 online meeting

1st -5th November 2021

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The online meeting of the Fourth Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention (COP 4.1) will be held from the 1st to the 5th of November 2021. The agenda for the online meeting is for 'essential' items required for the continuation of the Convention including budgeting for the secretariat's activities, effectiveness evaluation and national reporting . The primary items of concern are the Budget and Programme of Works. All other agenda items including most technical guidance and convention amendment proposals will be addressed at the face-to-face meeting currently scheduled for 21st -25th March 2022 in Bali (pandemic issues permitting). This brief Quick Views only covers those matters that will be addressed at the online meeting in November 2021.

Items to be considered at COP 4.1 (Annotated agenda Part I):

- Financial resources and Mechanism; Global Environment Facility
- Programme of Work and budget for 2022-2023 Biennium
- National reporting
- Effectiveness Evaluation

Key agenda items to be considered:

1) Financial resources and Mechanism; Global Environment Facility

The GEF forms one important component of the Convention financial mechanisms. Parties will be updated on the eighth replenishment of the GEF and party statements in plenary can help inform the replenishment planning discussions. INF 8 contains information on GEF-8 programming directions and GEF-8 strategic positioning framework which will be finalised at the 3rd GEF replenishment meeting between 17 to 19 January 2022. The priorities of the GEF for Minamata are currently expressed as:

- National Implementation Plans, Minamata Initial Assessments, ASGM National Action Plans as well as reviews undertaken by the COPs on effectiveness in respect of the focus of the project/program.
- Reduction and elimination of mercury from the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector.
- Elimination of primary mercury mining and associated trade, along with controls on use of mercury from primary mining.
- Phase out and eventual elimination of mercury or mercury compounds used in manufacturing processes contained in Annex B of the Minamata Convention.
- Non-combustion, including green technologies to disposal of materials and products containing POPs, mercury, and chemicals of concern.
- Capacity-building for the development of strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds and, as appropriate, the remediation of those sites.
- Potential ongoing support for platforms that can include the GEF planetGOLD initiative, the Global Mercury Partnership.

Programme of Work and budget for 2022-2023 Biennium

The budget for the 2022-2023 Biennium needs to be increased by at least the 5% growth scenario outlined by the secretariat as the costs of implementation and staffing have risen considerably even taking into account savings arising from the travel/meetings budget due to the pandemic. IPEN supports an increase in budget for the convention to ensure that implementation (and especially analysis of reporting) including effectiveness evaluation and scientific support work is not constrained.

Key elements of the POW and Budget agenda items:

- presents proposed budgets for 2022 and 2023
- two requested scenarios, setting out the differences between the 5 per cent growth scenario and the zero nominal growth scenario. The 5 per cent growth scenario is closer to the actual Convention needs and have been prioritized for funding from the general trust fund for 2022 and, as far as possible, for 2023. Includes a 17.78 per cent increase in staff costs. The 5% scenario meets budgeting for elements of the work programme that are essential for complying with the activities mandated under the Convention in Effectiveness Evaluation costs (USD 100,000) and scientific work (USD 200,000).
- the total budget for 2022–2023, before programme support costs, is \$7,043,325, which is \$335,397 higher than the approved budget for the biennium 2020–2021.
- Full budget can be discussed and amended at the COP 4 face-to-face meeting in 2022
- With three application rounds completed, however, the secretariat will be administering approximately 25 projects in the biennium 2022–2023 through the SIP.
- The team of the Minamata Convention secretariat currently consists of 10 Professional staff members, including a Junior Professional Officer, and 5 General Service staff members.

The programme of work of the Minamata Convention secretariat for the biennium 2022–2023 is set out in 16 activities under seven headings. The proposed activities are mainly a continuation of the activities implemented in the biennium 2020–2021.

National reporting

Article 21 on the convention requires Parties to report to the COP on implementing the convention, evaluation of the effectiveness of those measures and any challenges to implementation. The deadline for the first biennial national reports (short format) was 31 December 2019 and had a relatively high level of compliance with an 89% submission rate. The long form reporting format is due on 31 December 2021.

Only China and Mexico reported having primary mercury mines operational. There was significant confusion among parties in answering the question on the short format report. As a result, the secretariat could not develop reliable estimates of national mercury stocks, primary mines, disposal volumes and techniques or mercury exports. More guidance is required to enable more accurate reporting. However, many countries did not answer questions about their mercury stocks or attempts to estimate them. While guidance may help reporting their needs to be more commitment from many parties to report accurately. The agenda item on reporting is to introduce new, improved guidance on the long format reports which are due in December and IPEN supports this initiative.

Effectiveness Evaluation

A series of documents will be presented including guidance on mercury monitoring, indicators to assist effectiveness evaluation and a compilation of views on the indicators that will support effectiveness evaluation of the convention. Documents will include:

- Guidance on monitoring of mercury and mercury compounds (INF 12)

- Compilation of views on the proposed indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (INF 11)
- Indicators (Doc 18/add 4)

The COP will be asked to consider the establishment of a committee to commence of the first effectiveness evaluation since the entry in force of the Minamata Convention and to take note of intersessional work and party led consultations. IPEN would like to see the Effectiveness Evaluation commenced after COP 4.1 as mercury monitoring has been undertaken in many locations, short form reports have been lodged under article 21 and long form reports are due to be lodged with the COP as of 31 December 2021. All of these elements are important inputs to effectiveness evaluation and analysis of associated data should begin as soon as possible with potential to finalise the first effectiveness evaluation in time for COP 5.

Schedule for COP 4.1

Plenary will be held on November 1st, 3rd and 5th while the contact group of Programme of Work and Budget will be held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th November. Observers can only log in via the intranet to the Plenary sessions as observers are not permitted access to the contact group meetings.

Overview schedule

| Time | Monday 1 November | Tuesday 2 November | Wednesday 3 November | Thursday 4 November | Friday 5 November |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 11:15 - 12:15 UTC+2 | | Side Events | Side Events | Side Events | |
| 13:00 - 15:00 UTC+2 | COP-4.1 Plenary | Contact Group on POW/Budget (closed) | COP-4.1 Plenary | Contact Group on POW/Budget (closed) | COP-4.1 Plenary |
| 15:00 - 15:30 UTC+2 | Break | Break | Break | Break | Break |
| 15:30 - 17:30 UTC+2 | COP-4.1 Plenary | Contact Group on POW/Budget (closed) | Contact Group on POW/Budget (closed) | Contact Group on POW/Budget (closed) | COP-4.1 Plenary |
| 17:45 to 18:45 UTC+2 | | Side Events | Side Events | Side Events | |

NOTE: To support working conditions especially for an online setting the working times of the COP seek to take account of global time zones. Sessions ought to take place in the planned allocated time/Sessions ought not to exceed planned allocated time.

Overview schedule of the plenary sessions

| Time | Monday 1 November | Tuesday 2 November | Wednesday 3 November | Thursday 4 November | Friday 5 November |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 13:00 - 15:00 UTC+2 | Item 1: Opening of the meeting Item 2: Organizational matters (a) Adoption of the agenda (b) Organization of work (d) Report on the credentials of representatives to the meeting Item 6: Programme of work and budget | Contact Group on POW/Budget (closed) | Consideration of the outcome of the contact group on POW/budget Item 4: Matters for consideration and/or action by the Conference of the Parties (h) National reporting (e) Financial resources and mechanisms (i) Global Environment Facility | Contact Group on POW/Budget (closed) | Consideration of the outcome of the contact group on POW/budget Item 6: Programme of work and budget (cont.) Draft decision on POW and budget Item 7: Dates of the resumed fourth meeting; venue and dates of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties Draft decision on dates of the resumed session |
| 15:00 - 15:30 UTC+2 | Break | Break | Break | Break | Break |
| 15:30 - 17:30 UTC+2 | Item 7: Dates of the resumed fourth meeting; venue and dates of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties (i) Effectiveness evaluation | Contact Group on POW/Budget (closed) | Contact Group on POW/Budget (closed) | Contact Group on POW/Budget (closed) | Item 9: Adoption of the report of the meeting Item 10: Adjournment of the meeting |