**Small intersessional working group on the update of the Technical guidelines on**

**mercury wastes**

**Second teleconference**

**13 February 2020 – 13h to 15h, Geneva time**

For the list of attendees, please see Annex I of this document.

**Agenda of the meeting:**

1. Introduction and adoption of the agenda
2. Overview of comments received
3. Overview of relevant decisions adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention
4. Discussion on addressing unresolved comments
5. Concluding remarks and next steps

**Documents made available to the SIWG for discussion during the teleconference:**

Issues to be discussed during the webinar of 13 February

**Summary:**

1. **Introductory remarks**
* The Secretariat provided an overview of documents that had been made available to members ahead of the teleconference and introduced representatives of the lead country who would chair the teleconference.
* In response to a query, the Secretariat clarified that comments received from members of the SIWG are usually not made available on the website of the Convention but are sent to members by email. This had been done in the previous week for the comments received on the first draft of the TGs.

1. **Overview of comments received on the first draft of the TG by Japan**

A representative of the lead country provided an overview of comments received from members of the SIWG on the first draft of the TGs.

1. **Overview of relevant decisions adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (MC)**

The representative of the MC Secretariat provided a brief overview of relevant decisions adopted by the Conferences of the Parties (COP) to the MC at its third meeting held in November 2020. He highlighted the COP to the MC had not reached agreement on the threshold type and value of wastes contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds but decided that no thresholds need to be established for waste consisting of or containing mercury or mercury compounds. It was agreed that the Secretariat would share an advanced version of the decision on mercury releases adopted by the MC COP with the members of the SIWG for their information.

1. **Discussion on addressing unresolved comments**
* The group exchanged views on paragraph 2 of the TGs, that addresses the scope of mercury waste covered by the TGs, pertaining to a suggestion to delete category B3 and to align the categories of mercury wastes set out in that paragraph with those set out in paragraph 2 of Article 11 of the MC. Discussions also included consideration of the categorization of mercury wastes used in table 3 of the TGs which lists examples of mercury wastes set out in paragraph 2 of the TGs. Several members highlighted that the categorization used in the TGs and in Article 11 of the MC had been devised to serve different purposes. One member suggested to replace “examples” by “information” in the last sentence of the chapeau of paragraph 2 of the TGs, and to add a reference to the information in the table under paragraph 19bis of the first draft of the revised TGs. It was agreed to delete category B3, as long as the scope of category B remained unchanged, and to retain the categories of mercury wastes set out in paragraph 2 and table 3 of the TGs.
* Members exchanged further views on the scope of the TGs and whether there would be types of mercury wastes covered by the MC and not by the TGs, considering that paragraph 3 of the TGs indicates that they focus on mercury wastes categorized as hazardous wastes. It was discussed that the full range of mercury wastes that fall within the scope of the MC had not yet been fully defined since the COP of the MC had not yet taken a decision regarding thresholds for mercury waste falling under 2 (c)[[1]](#footnote-1) of article 11. It was discussed that the TG should cover hazardous wastes and mercury wastes defined under the MC. A few members were of the view that it would be more efficient to address this issue following consideration of the linkages between the MC and the BC (see below).
* Regarding the proposed table on linkages between the BC and the MC under paragraph 26 of the first draft of the revised TGs, members indicated their preference for the information to be presented in the form of paragraphs and not in a table format. There was general agreement that the text pertaining to the linkages between the BC and the MC needed to be carefully elaborated. Considering the short time available until the second draft of the TGs has to be prepared and the current capacity of members to work further on the text, it was agreed that draft text would be developed at a subsequent point in time and that in the interim, a short paragraph to that effect would be included in the second draft of the TGs.
* On the topic of how to show the necessary steps to achieve ESM of mercury waste, several members supported the development of a material to provide step-wise guidance on the ESM of specific types of mercury waste such as a roadmap or toolkit. It was argued that such guidance was currently lacking from the TGs but would facilitate its implementation especially in developing countries. Other members were averse to changing the current structure of the TGs but were open to considering an example of a draft roadmap with a view of deciding whether such material could eventually be included in the TGs, e.g. in an annex, or be developed into another type of document under the Basel Convention or the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership - Mercury Waste Management Area. A group of three members agreed to work together to develop a draft roadmap for further consideration by the SIWG.
* Regarding the proposal to separate regional and national examples from general guidance in the TGs by presenting the former as “Example” in boxes, participants were in agreement with it.
1. **Concluding remarks and next steps**

The Secretariat thanked all participants and reminded them that the second draft of the revised TGs would be shared with members and made available to Parties and others with an invitation for comments to be submitted ahead of the OEWG12.

**The meeting was closed at 15:00h.**

**Annex I – List of attendees**

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| Title | Name | Surname | Representing |
| Ms | Irina | Talamoni | Argentina |
| Mr | Christopher | Mariano | Canada |
| Ms | Julie | Croteau | Canada |
| Mr | Zheng | Yang | China |
| Mr | Michael | Ernst | Germany |
| Mr | David | Grimeau | European Commission |
| Ms | Lighea  | Speziale | CEWEP |
| Ms | Elena | Lymberidi | Zero mercury working group |
| Mr | NICOLAS | HUMEZ | Hazardous waste Europe |
| Mr | Toru | Terai | Japan |
| Ms | Kaoru | Oka | Japan |
| Mr | Takashi | Nishida | Japan |
| Mr | Gregory | Helms | USA |
| Mr | Eisaku | Toda | Switzerland |
| Ms | Melisa | Lim | BRS Secretariat |
| Mr | Shunsuke | Kudo | BRS Secretariat |

1. Wastes contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds [↑](#footnote-ref-1)