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

**mercury wastes**

**First teleconference**

**September 25th, 2019 – 13h to 14h, Geneva time**

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

**Agenda of the meeting:**

1. Introductory remarks
2. Introduction by Japan of its proposal to act as lead country
3. Discuss approach for updating the TGs
4. Review of the draft work plan for the SIWG
5. Concluding remarks and next steps

**Summary:**

1. **Introductory remarks**

* The representative of the Secretariat explained the mandate of the work, as per decision BC-14/8 on the update of the mercury waste technical guidelines (TGs) and she explained the overall objectives of the meeting.
* She recalled decision MC-2/2 adopted by the COP of the Minamata Convention and welcomed the representative of the Minamata Convention Secretariat as a member of the SIWG.
* The group adopted the meeting agenda without any change.
* The representative of the Secretariat explained that the Japanese government had proposed to act as lead country in updating the TGs. Several members of the group expressed their appreciation for the leadership of Japan in the matter.

1. **Introduction by Japan of its proposal to act as lead country**

* The representative of Japan explained the reasons why they would like to help with leading this important work under the Convention, including the idea of continuity since they also led the development of the current version of the technical guidelines, which was adopted in 2015. He introduced the team who will be working on the TGs.

1. **Discuss approach for updating the TGs**

* The representative of Japan introduced a document that summarized their ideas for updating the TGs, including in reference to recent work on mercury waste thresholds under the Minamata Convention and the outputs of a workshop on Synergies in Mercury Waste Management, hosted by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, which took place in Osaka, Japan, in May 2019. He also proposed to develop a questionnaire for requesting from Parties views on the areas of the TGs that need to be updated.
* The representative of the Minamata Convention Secretariat provided a brief overview on the work of the Group of technical experts on waste thresholds to be established pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 11 of the Minamata Convention and the outcomes of its first meeting held in Osaka in May 2019. He also highlighted additional areas of work under the Minamata Convention that touch upon the management of mercury wastes and which may be of interest to the SIWG in its consideration of how to update the TGs. These include the work on releases of mercury in relation to the management of wastewater containing mercury and work on contaminated sites in relation to the management of soil excavated from sites contaminated.
* The group exchanged views on the ideas proposed by Japan for updating the TGs. Members indicated that they entrusted Japan as lead country to provide a first indication of areas where the TGs needed to be updated. It was agreed that Japan would share its proposal on updating the TGs with the group for review and comments on the basis of which Japan would proceed to prepare the first draft of the revised TGs.
* On the use of a questionnaire, it was agreed that a questionnaire would not be sent out at that stage but could be developed at a future point if deemed necessary for requesting additional information from Parties and observers.
* Regarding a proposal by Japan to include in the TGs information on practical examples for showcasing available technologies, Japan was invited to include a sample of such an example in the proposal for updating the TGs, for consideration by the SIWG.

1. **Review of the draft work plan for the SIWG**

The group exchanged views on the draft workplan for updating the TGs. Members emphasized the need to allow four to six weeks for the group to review drafts of the TGs and to be mindful of holiday seasons e.g around Christmas. There was a request for scheduling a round of comments by all Parties on the draft of the revised TGs that would be provided as an INF document for consideration by the OEWG at its 12th meeting. It was agreed that Japan together with the Secretariat would revise the workplan taking into account the requests from the group and the time constraints of Japan who is responsible for developing the drafts.

1. **Concluding remarks and next steps**
   * Japan to prepare a proposal for the update of the TGs and circulate it to the group by 30 September.
   * Japan, together with the Secretariat to revise the draft workplan before sharing with the group.

**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 | Cristian | Brito | Chile |
| Mr | Michael | Ernst | Germany |
| Ms | Mareike | Röhreich | Germany |
| Ms | Kathia | David | Guyana |
| Mr | NICOLAS | HUMEZ | Hazardous waste europe |
| Mr | Lee | Bell | IPEN |
| Mr | Toru | Terai | Japan |
| Ms | Kaoru | Oka | Japan |
| Mr | Cesar | Llanos | Peru |
| Mr | Eisaku | Toda | Switzerland |
| Ms | Christina | Langlois-Miller | United States |
| Mr | Daniel | Fagnant | USA |
| Mr | Gregory | Helms | USA |
| Ms | Melisa | Lim | BRS Secretariat |
| Ms | Carla | Valle | BRS Secretariat |
| Mr | Shunsuke | Kudo | BRS Secretariat |