



MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY

Update on Minamata Convention on Mercury

UNECE PRTR Protocol Working Group meeting, 24-25 November 2022

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

The Parties to this Convention,

Recognizing that mercury is a chemical of global concern owing to its long-range atmospheric transport, its persistence in the environment once anthropogenically introduced, its ability to bioaccumulate in ecosystems and its significant negative effects on human health and the environment,

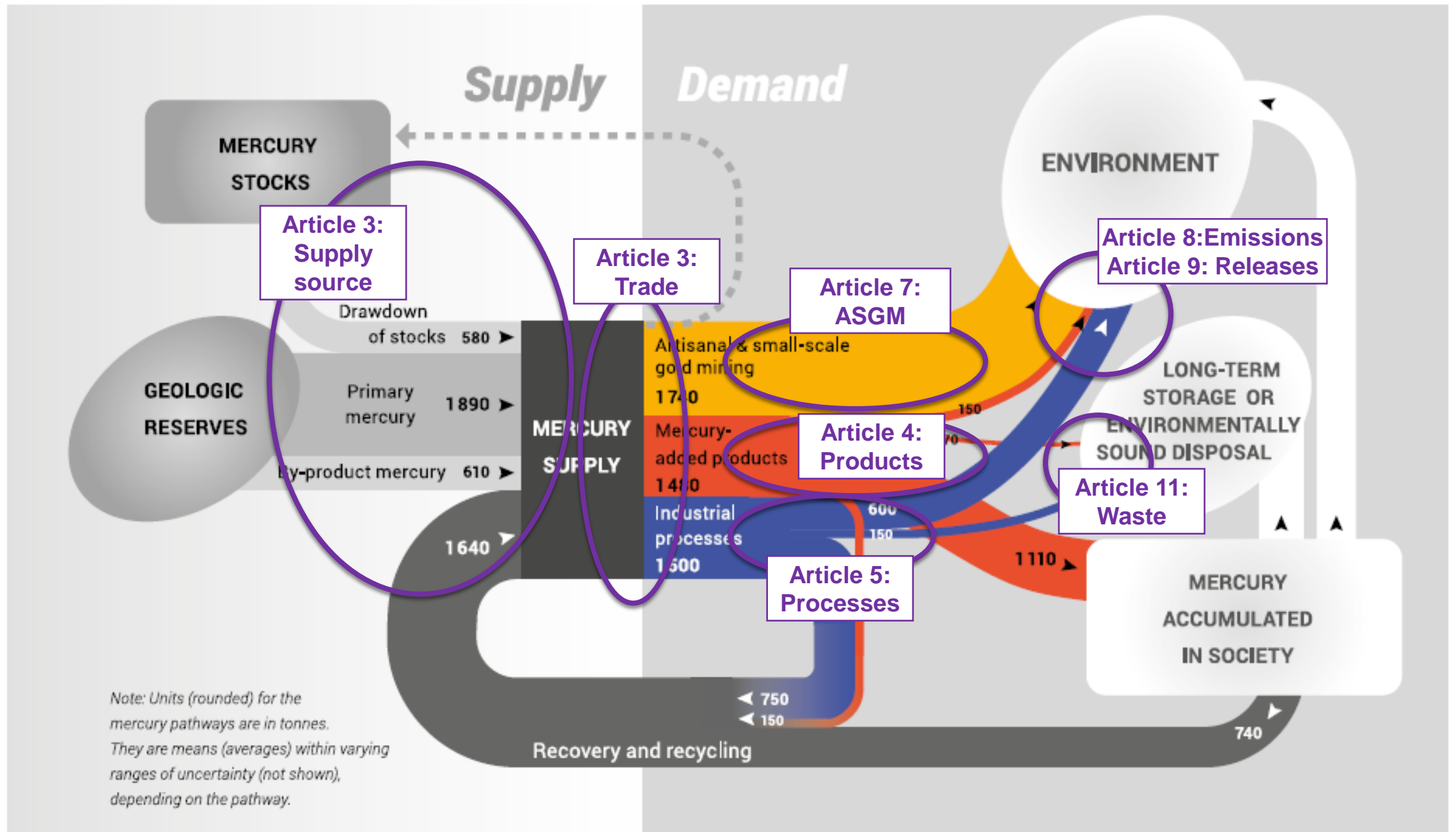
Recalling decision 25/45 of 20 February 2000 of the Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations and the subsequent action to manage mercury

Recalling paragraph 10 of the 2001 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which called for a convention that is legally binding

Article 1 Objective

The objective of this Convention is to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

Global mercury supply and demand, 2015



COP-4, Nov 2022 (online) and Mar 2023 (in-person, Bali)



Decision	Summary
MC-4/3 : Review and amendment of annexes A and B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amended Annex A by adding eight products to phase out by 2025 and new provisions on dental amalgam.• Intersessional work to prepare for COP-5 consideration.
MC-4/4 : Artisanal and small-scale gold mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated NAP guidance.
MC-4/5 : Mercury releases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopted inventory guidance.• Intersessional work on BAT/BEP guidance.
MC-4/6 : Mercury waste thresholds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intersessional work on mercury waste thresholds.
MC-4/7 : Second review of the financial mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intersessional work following the TOR.
MC-4/8 : National reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Called on parties on import consent forms and identification of mercury stocks.• Intersessional work on reporting guidance.
MC-4/10 : Gender mainstreaming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intersessional work toward gender action plan.
MC-4/11 : The first effectiveness evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopted framework and established an Open Ended Scientific Group
MC-4/12 : International cooperation and coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linkage with UNEA outcomes and biodiversity framework.

Article 8 – Emissions

- Controls the emissions of total mercury to air from point sources listed in Annex D:
 - Coal-fired power plants;
 - Coal-fired industrial boilers;
 - Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals (lead, zinc, copper and industrial gold);
 - Waste incineration facilities;
 - Cement clinker production facilities
- New sources – require the use of BAT/BEP no later than 5 year after the entry into force (EIF)
- Existing sources – implement control measures no later than 10 years after EIF
 - Quantified control/reduction goals
 - Emission limit values
 - Use of BAT/BEP
 - Multi-pollutant control strategy
 - Alternative measures
- Each Party shall establish and maintain an inventory of emissions from relevant sources no later than 5 years after EIF
- COP shall adopt guidance on
 - BAT/BEP
 - Methodology for preparing inventories of emissions

Guidance under article 8 – COP-1 decisions in 2017

- ▶ Decision MC-1/4
 - Adopted the [guidance](#) on BAT/BEP and on support for parties in implementing the measures
 - Recognized that some of the measures described in the guidance may not be available to all parties for technical or economic reasons,
 - Requested parties with experience in using such guidance to provide the secretariat with information on that experience, and the secretariat to compile such information and to update the guidance as necessary.
- ▶ Decision MC-1/16
 - Adopted the guidance on criteria that parties may develop to identify emission sources, and on the [methodology for emission inventories](#).

GUIDANCE ON BEST AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES AND BEST ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES



Article 9 – Releases

- Controls the releases of total mercury to land and water from relevant point sources identified by parties not addressed in other provisions of the Convention.
- Each Party shall identify relevant point source categories no later than 3 year after the entry into force (EIF)
- A Party with relevant sources shall take measures to control releases. The measures shall include one of more of the following, as appropriate:
 - Release limit values
 - Use of BAT/BEP
 - Multi-pollutant control strategy
 - Alternative measures
- Each Party shall establish and maintain an inventory of releases from relevant sources no later than 5 yeast after EIF
- COP shall adopt guidance on
 - BAT/BEP
 - Methodology for preparing inventories of emissions

Guidance under article 9 – Decision MC-4/5

- ▶ COP-4 Decision [MC-4/5](#)
 - Adopted the [guidance](#) on methodologies for release inventories, including a list of potentially relevant point source categories.
 - Requested the group of technical experts (established by COP-2) to develop guidance on BAT/BEP in line with a [road map](#).
- ▶ Group of technical experts on mercury releases
 - Reviewed the information on national regulations or industry practices relating to the control of mercury releases from relevant sources.
 - Aims to post the first draft of the guidance on the website in December 2022 with a commenting period until February 2023, and finalize the draft as COP-5 document based on the comments and input.

List of potentially relevant point source categories

Source category in the UNEP mercury inventory toolkit		Release sources (not addressed in other provisions of the Minamata Convention) ⁵	Documentation of the releases
Source category: Extraction and use of fuels/energy sources			
5.1.1	Coal combustion in power plants	Releases to land and water from coal storage, coal washing and air-pollution-control systems.	Global Mercury Assessment 2018. Reference report of the UNEP mercury inventory toolkit.
5.1.2.1	Coal combustion in coal-fired industrial boilers	Releases to land and water from coal storage, coal washing and air-pollution-control systems.	Global Mercury Assessment 2018. Reference report of the UNEP mercury inventory toolkit.
5.1.2.2	Other coal use	Releases to land and water from coal storage, coal washing and air-pollution-control systems.	Reference report of the UNEP mercury inventory toolkit.
	Coal mining	Releases to land and water from wet processing methods, such as coal flotation and coal washing.	Pollutant release and transfer registers of the European Union and the United States.
5.1.3	Extraction, refining and use of petroleum	Releases to land and water from oil extraction, oil refining and air-pollution-control systems.	Global Mercury Assessment 2018. Reference report of the mercury inventory toolkit. Gallup, Darrell L. (Thermachem). Removal of mercury from water in the petroleum industry. Twenty-first International Petroleum Environmental Conference. Pollutant release and transfer registers of the European Union and the United States.
5.1.4	Extraction, refining and use of natural gas	Releases to land and water from natural-gas extraction and refining.	Reference report of the UNEP mercury inventory toolkit. Pollutant release and transfer registers of the European Union and the United States.
5.1.6	Biomass-fired power and heat production	Releases to land and water from air-pollution-control systems.	Reference report of the UNEP mercury inventory toolkit.
Source category: Primary (virgin) metal production			
5.2.1	Mercury (primary) mining and mineral processing	Releases to land and water from mining and mineral processing.	Global Mercury Assessment 2018. Reference report of the UNEP mercury inventory toolkit.
	Mining, mineral processing, smelting and roasting of non-ferrous metals other than mercury	Releases to land and water from collected mine drainage, mineral processing, air-pollution-control systems, associated smelting and roasting and process residues.	Global Mercury Assessment 2018 (aluminium, copper, gold, lead, zinc). Reference report of the UNEP mercury inventory toolkit. Pollutant release and transfer registers of Australia, Canada, the European Union, Norway and the United States.

Decision MC-4/11: The first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury



Article 22

Effectiveness evaluation

1. The Conference of the Parties shall evaluate the effectiveness of this Convention, beginning no later than six years after the date of entry into force of the Convention and periodically thereafter at intervals to be decided by it.

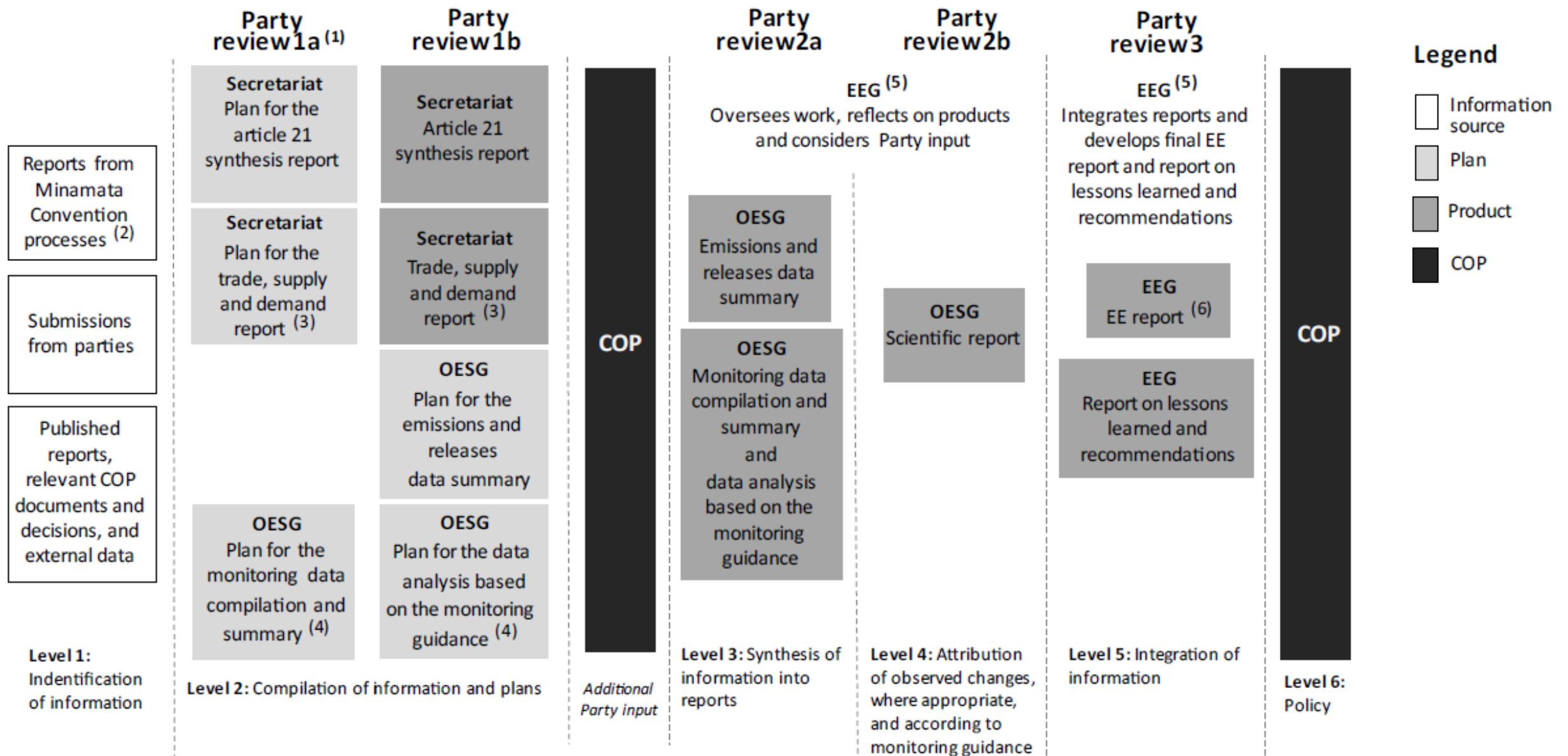
On the first effectiveness evaluation, COP-4 agreed to:

- Begin the effectiveness evaluation at COP-4, and to further consider its timeline at COP-5
- Adopt the framework of the effectiveness evaluation
- Establish the Open-Ended Scientific Group (including its terms of reference)
- Continue to consider the effectiveness evaluation including the terms of reference of an Effectiveness Evaluation Group
- Request the secretariat to support an intersessional process to refine the list of indicators for adoption at COP-5
- Encourage Parties to provide support considering the geographic and scientific gaps identified for the effectiveness evaluation

Five products to be prepared for COP-5:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) Article 21 Synthesis Report (plan and report) | (c) Plan for Emissions and Releases Data Summary |
| (b) Trade, Supply and Demand Report (plan and report) | (d) Plan for Monitoring Data Compilation and Summary |
| | (e) Plan for Data Analysis based on the Monitoring Guidance |

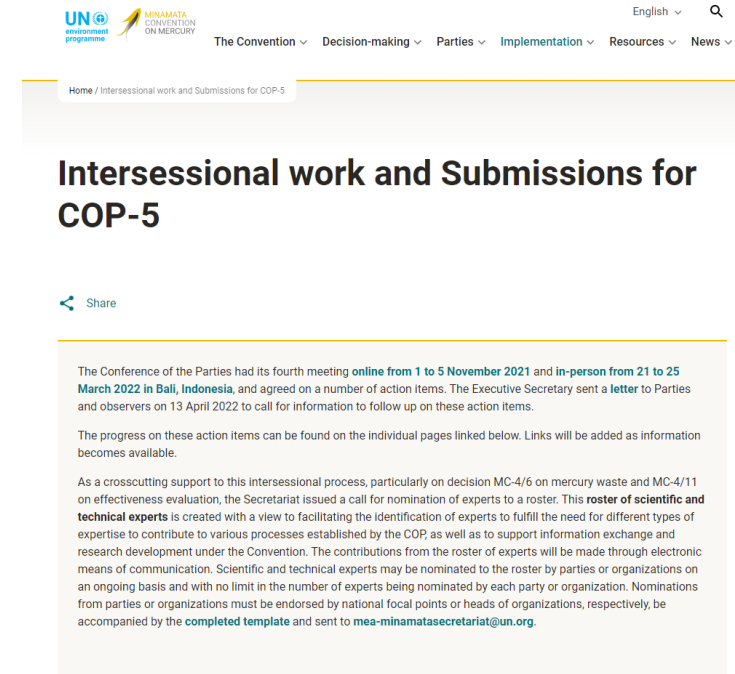
Framework for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Minamata Convention on Mercury



- Open Ended Scientific Group (OESG) started working online in June 2022, and will meet face-to-face in March 2023.
- Decision MC-4/11 refers to the [monitoring guidance document](#) submitted to COP-4.

Open-Ended Scientific Group (OESG) for effectiveness evaluation

- ▶ OESG is to develop a scientific report compiling, analyzing and synthesizing monitoring data, evaluating the Hg levels and draw conclusions.
- ▶ This intersessional period focuses on three plans:
 - i. plan for the monitoring data compilation and summary
 - ii. plan for data analysis consistent with the monitoring guidance
 - iii. **plan for a summary of available emissions and releases data**
- ▶ At a second stage, OESG was tasked to implement the plans to deliver:
 - i. the monitoring data compilation and summary,
 - ii. the data analysis addressing the guiding questions outlined in the monitoring guidance
 - iii. **summary of available emissions and releases data**
- ▶ OESG started to work online in June 2022, and meet face-to-face in late March 2023



The screenshot shows the website header with the UN Environment Programme logo and navigation links: The Convention, Decision-making, Parties, Implementation, Resources, News. The main heading is 'Intersessional work and Submissions for COP-5'. Below it is a 'Share' button. The main text states: 'The Conference of the Parties had its fourth meeting online from 1 to 5 November 2021 and in-person from 21 to 25 March 2022 in Bali, Indonesia, and agreed on a number of action items. The Executive Secretary sent a letter to Parties and observers on 13 April 2022 to call for information to follow up on these action items. The progress on these action items can be found on the individual pages linked below. Links will be added as information becomes available. As a crosscutting support to this intersessional process, particularly on decision MC-4/6 on mercury waste and MC-4/11 on effectiveness evaluation, the Secretariat issued a call for nomination of experts to a roster. This roster of scientific and technical experts is created with a view to facilitating the identification of experts to fulfill the need for different types of expertise to contribute to various processes established by the COP, as well as to support information exchange and research development under the Convention. The contributions from the roster of experts will be made through electronic means of communication. Scientific and technical experts may be nominated to the roster by parties or organizations on an ongoing basis and with no limit in the number of experts being nominated by each party or organization. Nominations from parties or organizations must be endorsed by national focal points or heads of organizations, respectively, be accompanied by the completed template and sent to me-minamatasecretariat@un.org.'

Review of and amendments to annexes A and B

Mercury releases

Mercury waste thresholds

Second review of the financial mechanism

Draft reporting guidance

Gender

First effectiveness evaluation

Review of and amendments to annexes A and B

Annexes A and B to the Convention provide for measures to be taken on mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds is used.

Amendment of Annex A adopted at COP-4 in 2022

The Conference of the Parties (COP) decided, in its decision MC-4/3, to amend part I of Annex A to the Convention by adding the following mercury-added products, so that the manufacture, import and export of those products not be allowed after 2025:

- Compact fluorescent lamps with an integrated ballast (CFL-i) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner
- Cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFL) and external electrode fluorescent lamps (EEFL) of all lengths for electronic displays, not included in the current listing
- Strain gauges to be used in plethysmographs;
- Melt pressure transducers, melt pressure transmitters and melt pressure sensors except those installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available
- Mercury vacuum pumps
- Tire balancers and wheel weights
- Photographic film and paper
- Propellant for satellites and spacecraft.

Plan for emission and release data summary – data sources



- ▶ Inventories under Articles 8 and 9 – reported as part of national [reporting under Article 21](#)
 - Dedicated inventories for the Convention or mass-balance studies
 - Emission inventory under the UNECE Air Convention and other regional initiatives
 - National or regional pollutant releases and transfer registers (PRTR)
 - National inventories developed also as part of [Minamata Initial Assessments \(MIA\)](#).
- ▶ Inventories from scientific initiatives
 - Global Mercury Assessment
 - Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
 - Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR)
 - Streets et.al. (2017, 2019)
 -

The screenshot shows the '2021 National reports' page on the Minamata Convention website. It includes a navigation menu at the top with options like 'The Convention', 'Decision-making', 'Parties', 'Implementation', 'Resources', and 'News'. Below the title, there is a 'Share' button and a paragraph explaining the reporting process under Article 21. A table lists reports from various countries, including download links and attachments.

Reports as per	File	Attachment and other information
Albania	Download	
Argentina	Download	ARG_3.3.pdf , ARG_8.3.pdf
Armenia	Download	
Austria	Download	AUT_8.3.pdf
Bahamas	Download	
Bahrain	Download	
Belgium	Download	
Benin	Download	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Download	BOL_8.3.pdf
Botswana	Download	BWA_3.3.xls , BWA_8.3.xls
Brazil	Download	
Bulgaria	Download	
Burkina Faso	Download	
Burundi	Download	BDI_7.4.pdf
Cambodia	Download	
Cameroon	Download	
Canada	Download	CAN_3.3.docx
Chad	Download	TCD_7.4.pdf
Chile	Download	
China	Download	
China (Hong Kong SAR)	Download	
China (Macao SAR)	Download	
Colombia	Download	

If you are interested....

The group of technical experts on mercury releases works online, and welcomes participation of non-members.

Parties and other organizations can nominate experts to a roster to support the work of the Open-Ended Scientific Group for effectiveness evaluation.

For further information, please visit webpage on [intersessional work](#).

Intersessional work and Submissions for COP-5



The Conference of the Parties had its fourth meeting [online from 1 to 5 November 2021](#) and [in-person from 21 to 25 March 2022 in Bali, Indonesia](#), and agreed on a number of action items. The Executive Secretary sent a [letter](#) to Parties and observers on 13 April 2022 to call for information to follow up on these action items.

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Thank you for your attention

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