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MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY

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**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Fourth meeting**

Online, 1–5 November 2021 and Bali, Indonesia,
21–25 March 2022

Bali Declaration on combating illegal trade in mercury

We, the Heads of Delegation of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (hereinafter “the Convention”), having met from 21 to 25 March 2022, on the occasion of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in Bali, Indonesia.,

Bearing in mind that the extensive use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining has accelerated international trade in mercury, including illegal trade, which has increased in the past decade, as reflected in some international reports such as *Global Mercury Supply, Trade and Demand* (UNEP, 2017) and *The Illegal Trade in Chemicals* (UNEP, 2020),

Concerned that this increase in illegal trade is a serious concern which threatens human health and the environment,

Aware of the broader negative socioeconomic impacts of the illegal trade in mercury as a key consideration in the fight against the global threat of mercury to human health and the environment and in ensuring progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Realizing that the current practice of illegal trade in mercury is closely connected with, among other things, the extensive use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, the lack of access to economically viable alternatives to mercury, and trade in mercury using online trading platforms,

Recognizing that international cooperation is pivotal to addressing both legal and illegal trade in mercury,

Acknowledging the need for international support to assist developing countries in combating illegal trade in mercury and, in particular, the need to strengthen their capacity for mercury management and control and the need to raise awareness of environmental issues and health consequences resulting from exposure to mercury,

Reaffirming the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development outcome document “The Future We Want”,¹

Recognizing the complementarity between the Convention, relevant international instruments,² internationally agreed initiatives³ and the need for their full and effective implementation in combating illegal trade in mercury,

Guided by the Convention, which aims to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds by, among other things,

¹ A/RES/66/288.

² Such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/8 on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

³ Such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

controlling mercury sources, uses and trade and improving the monitoring and control of trade in mercury, as well as reducing the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining,

Declare that we:

1. *Affirm* our commitment to implementing monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement efforts under national laws and regulations for combating illegal trade in mercury and, in so doing, enhancing cooperation among Parties;
2. *Encourage* Parties to formulate policies, rules and any other suitable measures, within their jurisdiction, to address illegal trade in mercury, including measures to increase transparency and enforcement of regulations, with particular attention to online platforms such as e-commerce and social media companies that host platforms facilitating illegal trade in mercury;
3. *Call upon* Parties to enhance international cooperation and coordination to increase national capacity to combat illegal trade in mercury, to develop practical tools and notification and information-sharing systems for monitoring and managing trade in mercury, to exchange experiences and practices relating to combating illegal trade in mercury, including reducing the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and to share examples of national legislation and data and information related to such trade;
4. *Promote* cross-border, regional and international cooperation among law enforcement networks to improve coordination relating to notification, prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of illegal trade in mercury;
5. *Also promote* international and interagency cooperation, coordination and planning to facilitate capacity-building through, among other things, training, mainstreaming programmes and education for customs officials, police and other law enforcement officers, and through programmes to raise awareness at the local, national and global levels of the impact, hazards and risks of trading mercury illegally;
6. *Invite* relevant international organizations, such as the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to explore the possibility of cooperation in addressing illegal trade in mercury;
7. *Recognize* that strategies to address and minimize illegal trade in mercury will be most effective if they include (a) *demand-side control* by promoting and financing research and access to non-mercury alternatives, (b) *supply-side control* by, among other things, committing to phasing out primary mercury mining, and (c) *transit control* by enhancing the monitoring of transiting goods and identifying and eliminating routes for illegally traded mercury;
8. *Promote* the use of economically viable alternatives to mercury and implement incentive-based systems, as well as encourage active engagement and participation of, and close collaboration with, relevant stakeholders, including Governments, local communities, civil-society organizations, the private sector and academia;
9. *Invite* cooperation in capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer for the environmentally sound management of mercury and mercury waste in developing countries;
10. *Promote* integrated study of illegal trade in mercury that combines socioeconomic issues, financial factors and the role of broader unlawful activities, such as corruption and illicit financial flows, in order to identify groups of populations that are at risk and develop targeted regulations;
11. *Also promote* the development and application of educational materials and programmes for use in schools and youth education, in particular in areas with high levels of artisanal and small-scale gold mining activities, to increase health literacy regarding the adverse impact of mercury on the environment and human health as well as the need to reduce mercury exposure and to foster awareness of the dangers of mercury and to be informed about available safer alternatives and methods;
12. *Encourage* donor countries, agencies and international financial institutions to contribute to the advancement of the aims of the present declaration through provision of funding and technical assistance in support of countries' national, cross-border and subregional efforts.