

BC-15/24: Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that the sharing of services within a stable framework will enhance cooperation and coordination based on experience and proximity and can foster the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention without undermining the autonomy of the secretariats or the accountability of their executive heads,

Expressing gratitude for the operative proposal of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on sharing services between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,¹

Welcoming decisions MC-3/11 and MC-4/9, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention at its third and fourth meetings, on enhanced cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,

1. *Takes note* of the content of the operative proposal of the Executive Director and of the various options provided therein;
2. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2020, which contains information on its cooperative activities with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention,² of the joint report on cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,³ and of the report of the joint task force between the two secretariats and the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme;⁴
3. *Affirms* the importance of continued cooperation on programmatic synergies, of the use of the task force between the two secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals and Health Branch, and of the possibility for the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to provide secretariat support to the Minamata Convention on a cost recovery basis, in accordance with the programme of work and budget of the conventions for each biennium;
4. *Welcomes* the establishment of inter-secretariat working groups to address specific aspects of relevant services, as recommended by the United Nations Environment Programme;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in the performance of secretariat functions for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and mindful of the legal autonomy of the respective secretariats, to support the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in its efforts to enhance cooperation with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, including through the regular use of the task force comprising the two secretariats and the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme as a stable framework for cooperation and the sharing of relevant secretariat services, in accordance with decisions BC-14/22, RC-9/10 and SC-9/20 of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) To continue, with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and under the overall steering of the task force, inter-secretariat working groups, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, technical and technical assistance matters, in accordance with the

¹ UNEP/MC/COP.3/16.

² UNEP/CHW.15/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/45.

³ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/40–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/23–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/44.

⁴ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/67–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/46–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/43.

programme of work and budget and to explore ways to further strengthen the cooperation and collaboration with the Minamata Convention;

(b) To continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programme of work and budget for each biennium;

(c) To report on the implementation of the present decision, including on a stable framework for cooperation and for the sharing of services, providing an outline of the cooperation activities planned under such a framework for the biennium 2024–2025, for the consideration of and, as necessary, further guidance by, the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.