

ZMWG VIEWS ON THE REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 22

October 2018

Article 22 of the Minamata Convention requires periodic evaluation of its effectiveness, beginning no later than six years after entry into force. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided on a road map for establishing arrangements for this effectiveness evaluation (Decision MC -1/9). The decision included the creation of an ad hoc group of experts to consider these arrangements.

The “Report on the Work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Effectiveness Evaluation” reflects the results of the deliberations of this group. **The Zero Mercury Working Group supports this report generally and urges the COP to accept it** as a basis for further development of the effectiveness evaluation framework and monitoring arrangements. In particular, we applaud three specific aspects of the recommendations found in the report:

1. The report provides an extensive review of existing monitoring programs that can be used to feed into effectiveness evaluation. However, the report also **recognizes that the comparability and completeness of the existing data will need to be enhanced, in order for the COP to undertake a scientifically credible evaluation of Convention effectiveness.** Notably, the paucity of data from the developing world is a significant gap in many existing data sets. Given that most mercury emissions now occur in the developing world, the lack of robust data from these geographies seriously impedes the ability of the COP to provide itself with “comparable monitoring data on the presence and movement of mercury... as well as trends in levels of mercury...” as required by Art 22 para 1. The report acknowledges these critical gaps and recommends some approaches to fill them (e.g., passive air monitors). Another recommended enhancement is to make consistent the types of human health and biotic endpoints monitored to better reflect impacts of concern in vulnerable human populations and critical ecosystems. The ZMWG supports the need to enhance existing datasets to create the appropriate scientific basis for the effectiveness evaluation of this global treaty and looks forward to discussions at COP 2 about how this can best be accomplished.
2. The report recommends a reasonable proposed framework for the effectiveness evaluation, including a range of potential indicators that could be adopted by the

COP. This **framework recommends a robust set of credible information as the basis for these indicators**, including reports submitted pursuant to the requirements of the Convention, as well as voluntary submissions, project reports and other relevant information. This approach is consistent with Article 22, par. 3 which contemplates a wide range of information considered as part of the evaluation.

3. The draft terms of reference for the effectiveness evaluation committee **recommend the participation of up to five experts from civil society, indigenous organizations, intergovernmental organizations, industry and the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership as observers**. The inclusion of these groups as observers is consistent with the agreed arrangement for the expert group itself and is consistent with the open spirit with which the Minamata Convention has been conducted since the beginning of its negotiations. We strongly support inclusion of observers from these groups.