



GEF/C.67/11/Rev.01

May 24, 2024

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67<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
June 17 - 18, 2024  
Washington D.C.

Agenda Item 14

**Guidelines for the Preparation of Reviews of  
the Implementation of Article 7 of the Minamata Convention**

**Recommended Council Decision**

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.67/11/Rev.01, *Guidelines for the Preparation of Reviews of the Implementation of Article 7 of the Minamata Convention*, approves the inclusion of an enabling activity under the Minamata Convention on Mercury to support the preparation of Reviews of the Implementation of Article 7 (RIA); and requests the Secretariat to make provisions for such support to be accessed by eligible GEF recipient countries.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This document presents for Council review and approval the guidelines, eligibility, and value of grants for an enabling activity under the Minamata Convention – Review of the Implementation of Article 7, for approval.

2. Article 13 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury establishes a financial mechanism that shall include the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and a Specific International Programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance.

3. Specifically, Article 13 includes the following:

“The Global Environment Facility Trust Fund shall provide new, predictable, adequate, and timely financial resources to meet costs in support of implementation of this Convention as agreed by the Conference of the Parties. For the purposes of this Convention, the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund shall be operated under the guidance of and be accountable to the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties shall provide guidance on overall strategies, policies, programme priorities and eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources. In addition, the Conference of the Parties shall provide guidance on an indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support from the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund. The Global Environment Facility Trust Fund shall provide resources to meet the agreed incremental costs of global environmental benefits and the agreed full costs of some enabling activities.”

4. Article 7 of the Minamata Convention contains the following obligations:

- a. Each Party that has artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to this Article within its territory shall take steps to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, such mining and processing.
- b. Each Party shall notify the Secretariat if at any time the Party determines that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in its territory is more than insignificant. If it so determines the Party shall:
  - i. Develop and implement a national action plan in accordance with Annex C.
  - ii. Submit its national action plan to the Secretariat no later than three years after entry into force of the Convention for it or three years after the notification to the Secretariat, whichever is later; and
  - iii. Thereafter, provide a review every three years of the progress made in meeting its obligations under this Article and include such reviews in its reports submitted pursuant to Article 21.

5. Annex C of the Minamata Convention requires Parties who are subject to the review process to include a list of objectives, reduction targets, actions, and strategies in their national action plans.

6. The Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities for the Minamata Convention on Mercury<sup>1</sup>, presented to the 45<sup>th</sup> GEF Council, defined two enabling activities for the Convention as follows:

- a. Minamata Initial Assessments
- b. Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) National Action Plans

7. The GEF has been supporting these enabling activities with set-aside resources since GEF-5, with a total of \$53.9 million of which \$27.5 million supported projects conducting standalone Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs), \$20.5 million for National Action Plans (NAPs), and \$5.9 million for projects supporting both MIAs and NAPs. In total, 119 countries have received funding for MIAs and 48 countries for ASGM NAPs.

8. At the fifth Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Minamata Convention in October 2023, the COP provided guidance to the GEF in decision MC-5/7: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining as follows:

“Invites the Global Environment Facility to include support to parties undertaking their first such reviews as part of the Facility’s enabling activity support available to parties, and, within that activity, to support the development and piloting of review guidance, supplementing the information in the guidance document on developing a national action plan to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and of an online tool for parties to use when undertaking their reviews;”

9. To support parties undertaking their first such reviews, and subsequent reviews, a new enabling activity under the Minamata Convention – Review of the Implementation of Article 7 (RIA) is being proposed.

10. This document outlines the eligibility, guidelines for the preparation of the Review of the Implementation of Article 7 (RIA), and the value of grants.

#### **COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY**

11. Pursuant to decision MC-1/5: Guidance to the Global Environment Facility, to be eligible for funding from GEF as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Minamata Convention has stated that a country must be a Party to the Convention and must be a developing country or a country with an economy in transition.

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<sup>1</sup> GEF, 2013, [Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities for the Minamata Convention on Mercury](#), GEF/C.45/Inf.05/Rev.01

12. Pursuant to Article 7.c of the Minamata Convention, the review of the progress made in meeting the obligations under article 7 must be submitted every three years after the submission of the Party's first national action plan for artisanal and small-scale gold mining to the Minamata Convention Secretariat.

#### **GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 7 (RIA)**

13. Building on the obligation described in Article 7.c of the Minamata Convention, the following elements, may be contained in the report of the Party's review of implementation of Article 7 that is to be included in the Party's national report submitted pursuant to Article 21. Additionally, the report may include, if applicable, adjustments to the strategies, targets and actions that emerge from the findings of the review.

- a. A review of the steps taken to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, such artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing.
- b. A progress report on the implementation of the national action plans, including gaps, challenges faced, and solutions identified or undertaken. This progress report on the implementation of the national action plans should contain the following:
  - i. Review of progress in achieving the national objectives and reduction targets, and updated objectives and targets as appropriate.
  - ii. Review of actions to eliminate:
    - a. Whole ore amalgamation.
    - b. Open burning of amalgam or processed amalgam.
    - c. Burning of amalgam in residential areas.
    - d. Cyanide leaching in sediment, ore or tailings to which mercury has been added without first removing the mercury.
  - iii. Review of steps to facilitate the formalization or regulation of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector.
  - iv. Update of baseline estimates of the quantities of mercury used and practices employed in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory.
  - v. Review of the implementation of strategies for promoting the reduction of emissions and releases of, and exposure to, mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing, including mercury-free methods.
  - vi. Review of the implementation of strategies for managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury and mercury compounds from both foreign and domestic sources to use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing.
  - vii. Review of strategies for involving stakeholders in the implementation and

continued development of the national action plan, with separate sections with respect to engagement of:

- a. Indigenous Peoples
  - b. local communities.
- viii. Review of the implementation of public health strategies on the exposure of artisanal and small-scale gold miners and their communities to mercury including, inter alia, the gathering of health data, training for health-care workers and awareness-raising through health facilities.
  - ix. Review of the implementation of strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining.
  - x. Review of actions to address biodiversity loss and land degradation and alignment of these activities with the global biodiversity framework and the national biodiversity strategy and action plans.
  - xi. Review of the implementation of strategies for providing information to artisanal and small-scale gold miners and affected communities; and
  - xii. Updated schedule for the implementation of the NAP and, as appropriate, updated list of implementation responsibilities and entities responsible; and
  - xiii. Review of other information provided in the NAP that is not covered in i-xiii, including additional strategies the Party may have included in its NAP such as use and introduction of standards for mercury-free artisanal and small-scale gold mining and market-based mechanisms or marketing tools.
- c. A report on the amount of mercury reduced in the artisanal and gold mining sector through the implementation of the national action plans including projects funded by the GEF, the Specific International Program, other donor financed and self-finance activities and other sources of finance.
  - d. A report on any cooperation to advance implementation of Article 7 undertaken by, or involving, the Party pursuant to paragraph 4 a-f of Article 7.
14. Countries engaged in their NAP reviews may wish to consult the relevant sections of the NAP Guidance Document and subsequent related COP decisions, as well as other materials developed by the Global Mercury Partnership and other stakeholders including the update to the guidance on the preparation of national action plans<sup>2</sup> that was approved at COP 4.
15. In addition to submitting information developed from this enabling activity to the Minamata Secretariat, Parties are encouraged to submit data to the global mercury partnership

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<sup>2</sup> [MC/COP.4/29](#)

so that the data can be included in the online NAP dashboard that has been developed to collect data from the national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

**SUPPORT PROVISION**

16. In the GEF-8 period, \$20 million has been allocated for support of enabling activities for the Minamata Convention, of which \$1.2 million has been programmed as of May 23, 2024, and \$18.8 million available for programming. Support for this enabling activity will be provided within the available resource envelope for the GEF-8 period.

17. Each grant should not exceed \$200,000, unless the country can justify the additional amount due to the complexity of national circumstances, to be assessed by the GEF Secretariat.