

## The Minamata Convention on Mercury

- Global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury
- Agreed at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, January 2013
- 102 countries signed
- One country – United States -- ratified



## Highlights of the Convention

- Controls on all **lifecycle stages** of mercury covered by different articles of the Convention
- **Ban on new mercury mines** and **phase-out of existing ones**, including controls on use of mined mercury (Article 3)
- Controls on **international trade** in mercury (Article 3)
- Obligations in Article 3 include
  - Controls on mining
  - Identification of stocks
  - Controls on exports
  - Consent to needed imports from Parties
  - Control of imports from non-Parties
  - Reporting

## Highlights of the Convention

- **Phase-out and phase-down** dates for mercury use in products and processes (Articles 4,5 and 6)
  - Parties shall control import, export and manufacture of listed products after phase-out date
  - Discourage new mercury-added products or processes using mercury
  - Register for exemptions if needed
- **International controls on ASGM** (Article 7)
  - Parties with ASGM which is more than insignificant must reduce the use of mercury and the emissions of mercury
  - Parties with ASGM must prepare a national action plan

## Highlights of the Convention

- **Storage** (Article 10)
  - Interim storage in environmentally sound manner
- **Waste** (Article 11)
  - Environmentally sound management
  - Recovered, recycled, reclaimed or directly re-used for a use allowed to a Party under this Convention
  - Transport in line with Basel Convention
- **Contaminated Sites** (Article 12)
  - Endeavour to develop strategies to identify contaminated sites
- **Specific health** article (Article 16)
  - Encourage Parties to take action on health issues

## Information and Awareness Raising

- Information exchange
  - Facilitate exchange of a range of information
- Public access to information
- Research, development and monitoring
- Implementation Plans
  - Opportunity not obligation
- Reporting
  - Required by all Parties
- Effectiveness Evaluation

## Research, development and monitoring (Article 19)

Parties shall endeavour to cooperate to develop and improve, taking into account their respective circumstances and capabilities:

(a) **Inventories** of use, consumption, and anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds;

(b) **Modelling** and geographically representative **monitoring** of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations and in environmental media, including biotic media such as fish, marine mammals, sea turtles and birds, as well as collaboration in the collection and exchange of relevant and appropriate samples;

## Research, development and monitoring (Article 19)

(c) **Assessments** of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, in addition to social, economic and cultural impacts, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations;

(d) **Harmonized methodologies** for the activities;

(e) Information on the **environmental cycle**, transport (including long-range transport and deposition), transformation and fate of mercury and mercury compounds in a range of ecosystems, taking appropriate account of the distinction between anthropogenic and natural emissions and releases of mercury and of remobilization of mercury from historic deposition;

(f) Information on **commerce and trade** in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products; and

(g) Information and research on the **technical and economic availability of mercury-free products and processes**

## Effectiveness evaluation (Article 22)

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.

To facilitate the evaluation, the Conference of the Parties shall, at its first meeting, initiate the establishment of arrangements for providing itself with **comparable monitoring data** on the presence and movement of mercury and mercury compounds in the environment as well as trends in levels of mercury and mercury compounds observed in biotic media and vulnerable populations.

The evaluation shall be conducted on the basis of available **scientific, environmental, technical, financial and economic** information