

**Minamata Convention Secretariat intervention Opening Plenary
SAICM IP4 Romania
29 August 2022**

Thank you, Madam Co-Chair,

The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury is pleased to participate at IP4, and - with all other stakeholders - in the greater journey over the next 12 months to ICCM5 in September in Bonn.

On 16 August, just two weeks ago, the Minamata Convention on Mercury celebrated its 5th anniversary.

As of today, 137 Parties have formally committed to working together to keep people and planet safer – and ultimately, safe – from the harmful effects of mercury.

While the Convention brings together Parties, both the negotiation process to bring the instrument to life between 2009 and 2013, and now the hard work to translate commitments to transformative action at the national and global level, include industry, health, labour, civil society and research.

The Minamata Convention is set up to address the full life cycle of mercury, from closing mercury mines, the original source of mercury, through the various economic and industrial sectors where mercury is currently used or inadvertently emitted or released, to storage and mercury waste.

As such the Convention is part of the overall efforts to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste. In this regard, I would like to refer you to INF 11 that presents information on the activities and contributions of Minamata since we last met.

I would like to highlight a particular achievement of the Parties to the Convention at COP-4: Though we are a new instrument, the strong commitment of Parties to prevent mercury harm was underscored by the decision at COP-4 to amend our young instrument to expand its commitment to include 8 additional mercury-added product categories for phase-out by 2027, and two further measures on dental amalgam.

Minamata COP-4 also adopted a decision on international cooperation and coordination, which welcomed the UNEA resolution on the sound management of chemicals and waste, and the resolution on the establishment of a science-policy panel on chemicals and waste to prevent pollution, and requested the Minamata secretariat to contribute to their implementation as appropriate.

Further on cooperation, with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, we have worked closely together not only across the instruments on chemicals and waste, but also, as indicated by my colleague from the BRA secretariat, on linkages to the Triple Planetary Crisis, to produced joint reports on linkages between chemicals and waste and climate change on the one hand, and chemicals and waste and biodiversity on the other.

While Minamata may be the youngest instrument presently (with one on plastic on the horizon), both the development process of the Minamata instrument and the implementation experiences of our Convention's Parties over the past five years, may be helpful at this specific juncture of the Beyond 2020 process.



Under your chairmanship, and within in this open and inclusive process, as a stakeholder we look forward to contributing our experiences and insights as relevant over this week together.

Thank you, Madame Co-Chair.