

## FUNDING REQUEST FOR PROPOSED COVERAGE OF THE First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

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IISD Reporting Services' mission is to:

*increase transparency and accountability of intergovernmental  
sustainable development decision-making.*

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For more than two decades, IISD Reporting Services has provided transparency and accountability to international policy-making at the United Nations. Via our flagship publication – the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (ENB) – our team of experts has provided real-time information to decision-makers in a publicly accessible format using the latest in information technologies, thus promoting transparency in multilateral policy-making.

IISD Reporting Services is seeking the remaining funding to support the writing and publishing of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (ENB) at the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP1) scheduled to take place from 25-29 September 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The budget for the production of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* from Mercury COP1 is estimated at approximately USD 48,181. Detailed outputs and budget information can be found on page 5.

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation in support of IISD Reporting Services' coverage of Mercury COP 1, please contact [kimo@iisd.org](mailto:kimo@iisd.org) or [jennifer@iisd.org](mailto:jennifer@iisd.org)

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## About the International Institute for Sustainable Development

The International Institute for Sustainable Development's mission is to promote human development and environmental sustainability through innovative research, communication and partnerships. Established in 1990, IISD is an independent, non-profit organization that provides practical solutions to the challenge of integrating environmental and social priorities with economic development. IISD reports on international negotiations, conducts rigorous research, and engages citizens, businesses and policy-makers on the shared goal of developing sustainably. The institute has offices in Canada, Switzerland and the United States, and operates in over 70 countries around the world. As a registered charitable organization in Canada, IISD has 501 (c) (3) status in the U.S. For more information on IISD, visit [www.iisd.org](http://www.iisd.org).



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## About IISD Reporting Services



For decades, IISD Reporting Services (RS) is the division of IISD that has been inside the global environment and sustainable development negotiations, armed with laptops, tracking, filtering and reporting on key meetings. IISD RS provides clarity when the volume of information can be overwhelming and bridges the information deficit of developing countries, thereby contributing to environmental justice.

**Who is IISD RS:** IISD RS is based in New York City, USA near the United Nations. Our staff and consultants are a group of professionals with experience in international environment and sustainable development negotiations, the majority of which are either Ph.D. candidates, lawyers or Ph.Ds. To learn more about IISD RS and our team, visit: [www.iisd.ca](http://www.iisd.ca) and [www.iisd.ca/about/team/](http://www.iisd.ca/about/team/).

**IISD RS ENB Archives, (1994-present):** IISD RS' *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (ENB) is a balanced, timely, and independent report and record of negotiations across a full range of environmental and sustainable development issues. Visit the ENB Archives at [www.iisd.ca/enb/](http://www.iisd.ca/enb/) for a complete list of all bulletins.

In addition to the production of the ENB, IISD Reporting Services also provides:

#### **ENB+:**

Our "for hire" conference and meeting reporting service available to clients who wish to hire IISD RS to provide customized reporting from their event.

#### **Community Listservs:**

Moderated community announcement email listservs for policy-makers and practitioners involved with environment and sustainable development issues.

#### **Side Events Coverage (ENBOTS):**

ENB on the Side, our companion product to the ENB, communicates the key messages from side events held at large meetings, such as COPs.

#### **Video Services:**

A companion product to the ENB and ENBOTS that provides video summaries and daily wrap videos from meetings and events.

#### **Knowledge Management of the SDGs:**

Freely searchable databases that track and report on important meetings and publications emerging between the key negotiations of intergovernmental agreements.

## IISD Reporting Services and the ENB: the issue and its importance

Representation and participation in decision-making requires access to information about the issues under discussion as well as knowledge about the process and context in which decisions are made. Informed decision-making contributes to better outcomes, and transparency builds in accountability and better implementation. Those involved in multilateral negotiations on environment and sustainable development issues need to access

and analyze the information required to inform and influence decision-making processes. This is particularly challenging for both developed and developing countries in the rapidly evolving and expanding number of activities related to such negotiations. Trusted curators of knowledge are therefore increasingly important.

Since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, IISD RS's *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (ENB) has filled this critical need by increasing transparency and providing objective and comprehensive reporting on multilateral negotiations on environment and sustainable development issues, thus enabling government delegations and other stakeholders to engage more fully in the decision-making process. In particular, the ENB benefits developing countries, some of whom face severe financial constraints in sending delegates to meetings, by providing a neutral and trusted source of information and analysis so that they are able to engage and participate effectively in the decision-making process.

We distribute our daily reports in hard copy at meeting venues, on our website, by email, on Facebook and via Twitter (@IISDRS). At the conclusion of each meeting, ENB publishes a 10,000–30,000-word summary and analysis of the meeting.

Many UN delegates, ministers and other governmental officials, non-governmental organizations, the business community, the academic community, the media and UN staff who track environment and sustainable development negotiations consider the ENB to be essential reading. The ENB has received high praise for its objective and comprehensive presentation of the facts.



IPCC-44 FINAL

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*A Reporting Service for Environment and Development Negotiations*

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### SUMMARY OF THE 44TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE: 17-21 OCTOBER 2016

The 44th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-44) convened from 17-21 October 2016, in Bangkok, Thailand, and brought together over 300 participants from 109 countries.

The IPCC has three Working Groups (WGs): Working Group I (WGI) addresses the physical science basis of climate change; Working Group II (WGII) addresses climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability; and Working Group III (WGIII) addresses options for limiting GHG emissions and mitigating climate change. Each WG has two Co-Chairs and six Vice-Chairs, except for the fifth assessment cycle when WGIII had three Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs guide the WGs in fulfilling the mandates given to them by the Panel and are assisted in this task



Bonn Climate Change Conference. August 2015

## History of IISD Reporting Services Coverage of the Mercury Process

The First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Mercury COP1) is scheduled from 25-29 September 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. Parties attending COP1 are expected to continue their work from the intersessional meetings INC 6 and INC 7 to find common ground in their work to protect human health and the environment from mercury pollution. A short one-day meeting, INC 8, may be held prior to COP 1 to address unresolved elements, including items related to the COP Rules of Procedure, Convention financial rules, key aspects of the financial assistance mechanism, reporting on air emission control measures and reporting frequency generally, and the host arrangements for the secretariat.

IISD Reporting Services has been following deliberations on the issue of mercury through our coverage of the UNEP Governing Council (GC). In 2007 UNEP GC-24/GMEF discussed the issue of mercury extensively and participants' preferences for international cooperation on mercury that ranged from an immediate negotiating process towards a legally binding instrument, to incorporating mercury into existing agreements, or concentrating on voluntary actions, especially through partnerships. Delegates agreed in Decision 24/3 IV that a "two-track" approach could be employed to take forward actions on mercury, while keeping open the path to a binding instrument in the future. An ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG) of government and stakeholder representatives to review and assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments for addressing the global challenges posed by mercury was also established. In 2013, governments at the Fifth Intergovernmental Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury agreed to the text of the "Minamata Convention on Mercury".

IISD RS' team has consistently followed and provided reports and analyses of the two meetings of the ad-hoc OEWG, as well as the ad-hoc OEWG to prepare for the INC on mercury, the First Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury (INC1) through to the fifth and final Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Prepare a Global Legally Binding Instrument on Mercury (INC5) to the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the "Minamata Convention on Mercury" where the Convention was presented for adoption and opened for signature.

Having provided an accurate reflection, as well as an analysis of the proceedings on such technically challenging and politically sensitive negotiations, IISD Reporting Services have contributed to the transparency of the negotiations and to awareness regarding mercury issues, and would wish to continue contributing towards that direction until the completion of negotiations and adoption of this new international regime.

To view the outputs from IISD RS' past coverage of the Mercury COP 1 process, visit <http://www.iisd.ca/vol16/>. To view outputs from IISD RS' past coverage of related processes, visit [www.iisd.ca/enb/](http://www.iisd.ca/enb/).

## Purpose of this Funding Request

IISD RS wishes to continue covering the negotiations of the Mercury Process and providing a balanced, timely and objective reporting service from this important meeting.

This reporting service will:

- ✓ raise awareness within the international policy community and media of the outcomes from this meeting;
- ✓ create a level information playing-field at the meeting;
- ✓ contribute to transparency in international negotiations;
- ✓ provide useful information to policy-makers and those interested in contributing to the policy development process;



UNFCCC COP 21 Leaders, November 2015

- ✓ disseminate information on the activities of governments, NGOs and the United Nations at this international meeting;
- ✓ provide real-time information to environment and development decision-makers using new and emerging information technologies;
- ✓ contribute to the academic body of knowledge about this meeting; *and*
- ✓ maintain a trusted information flow to policy-makers on the activities of related negotiating processes.

## Budget, Funding Status and Proposed Outputs

The budget for the production of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* from Mercury COP 1 is estimated at USD 48,181 and presented in the below table. This meeting budget includes the following items: daily fees for each team member; travel to and from the meeting, and food and lodging (DSA); publishing and distribution costs of the hard copy and online daily and summary issues; office and production supplies; communication costs; and allocated costs.

<b>Mercury COP 1</b>	
<b>Dailies, Summary &amp; Analysis, Digital</b>	<b>Amount (USD)</b>
Professional Fees	24,271
Consultants Travel/DSA	23,830
Publishing	80
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>USD 48,181</b>

**THE EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN (daily & summary written reporting):** The ENB is a publication that is published and distributed to participants at selected UN environment and sustainable development negotiations and also disseminated via email, our website ([www.iisd.ca](http://www.iisd.ca)), Facebook and Twitter. The readership of ENB is estimated at 125,000 people worldwide.

IISD RS proposes to publish daily reports and a summary issue of the ENB from this meeting. The summary issue will synthesize the outcomes of the meeting and be published within 48 hours of its conclusion, and also posted and archived on our website and delivered through our email lists, Facebook and Twitter.

If IISD RS receives funding for a Digital Editor, the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* team will provide digital coverage of this meeting on our website, including digital photos and links to official documents and other related websites.

## Support IISD Reporting Services Coverage of Mercury COP 1

Over the last twenty years, IISD RS has raised funds from more than forty donors. Initial funding in 1992 came from the Ford Foundation, Compton Foundation, W. Alton Jones Foundation, the Mott Foundation, the Swedish Ministry of the Environment, the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, the World Bank, GREENWIRE, the Jenifer Altman Foundation, the Canadian Purple Martin Fund and WWF. Since 1994, IISD RS has been funded by government ministries and agencies, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as private foundations and industry.

IISD Reporting Services has three donor categories:

**SUSTAINING DONOR (USD 150,000 or more per year in a continuing relationship):** The minimum donor level to be listed as a Sustaining Donor in the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* masthead of each daily and summary issue is USD 150,000 per year. Sustaining Donors allow us to perform long-term planning for the sustainable future of this publication.

**GENERAL DONOR (USD 50,000 to USD 150,000 per year):** The minimum donation at this level is USD 50,000. General Donors are listed in the ENB masthead of each daily and summary issue.

**SPECIFIC DONOR:** This level includes donations supporting coverage of individual meetings. Specific Donors are listed in the ENB masthead of each daily and summary issue from that meeting.

**For further information on donor agreements, forms of payment, invoicing for coverage activities, financial reporting, etc., contact:**

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**IISD Reporting Services recognizes and thanks our 2015 donors:**

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### French Translations of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*:

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