

**The Bali Declaration Ceremony**  
**Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention**  
**on Mercury (COP-4) - Second segment**

**March 21, 2022**

**Remarks by Carlos Manuel Rodriguez,**  
**CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility**  
**(As delivered)**

Excellencies, colleagues, and friends,

We are confronting multiple environmental crises at once.

Many seem daunting, and require complex and integrated solutions, with unprecedented cooperation at a global scale.

Among the many issues facing us, I firmly believe that we can solve the issue of mercury pollution.

I warmly congratulate the Government of Indonesia on putting forward this Bali Declaration on the illegal trade in mercury.

This is an important topic on which the successful implementation of the Convention depends.

As I reported in the online segment of the COP 4, the Global Environment Facility is in the process of undergoing its eighth replenishment.

The GEF-8 strategy we have proposed to the contributing participants seeks to significantly raise the ambition of both finance and impacts on the ground to address the goals of the Conventions that we serve, including the Minamata Convention.

Momentum is now building for an ambitious, new phase of the GEF with a strong emphasis on biodiversity and renewed efforts to tackle climate change, chemical pollution, land degradation and other threats to the environment in an integrated way.

For the Minamata Convention, the GEF has supported projects in over 117 countries, with over \$380 million in financial resources over the last ten years. And the level of support to this important convention has been increasing steadily: more than half of these resources have been provided in the GEF-7 cycle over the past four years.

Three quarters of mercury resources have been targeted the reduction of use and emissions of mercury complimented with 21 percent of resources towards building institutional capacity and the creation of enabling environment.

Let me now briefly talk about how the GEF can countries in their efforts to implement the Bali Declaration.

The GEF continues to support projects that both phase-out the use of mercury and reduce the production of primary mined mercury. We believe that these projects will help build the foundation for the success of this declaration.

At the same time, we are aware that, as supplies of legally traded mercury are reduced, there is a greater incentive for its illegal trade. Indeed, the GEF has been dealing with similar phenomenon in other sectors.

For example, in the wildlife trade, as species are more and more threatened, the illegal trade becomes more lucrative and is increasing. To tackle transnational illegal trade requires integrated and coordinated global action, which is why the call by the Bali Declaration is so vital.

In the upcoming GEF-8 period, we aim to support projects that work along supply chains, aligning national policy and decision making to better manage and coordinate the approaches to addressing the various Convention obligations the GEF supports, including the Minamata Convention.

This approach will facilitate policy coherence in decision making across agencies and institutions at the national level, which will help transition to stronger accountability and monitoring of material flows across supply chains.

Much of the work to support the implementation of the Convention covers legal use of mercury. On the other hand, the reduction of the supply of mercury and its uses, such as the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) are key to controlling the illegal trade.

Here in Indonesia, the GEF is already making strides in addressing the illegal trade from the supply chain perspective: the GEF-funded planetGOLD the program is already producing results in reducing the use of mercury in ASGM through the strengthening institutions and regulatory frameworks; by increasing mining communities' access to the financing needed to purchase mercury-free processing technologies; by providing technical assistance, technology transfer and support for formalization; and by raising awareness and disseminating lessons learned on phasing out mercury in the ASGM sector.

Programs like the GEF ISLANDS program which works in 33 SIDS is putting in trade controls on products containing hazardous chemicals including mercury.

Through the implementation of these projects and programs we believe that along with the other provisions of the Bali Declaration, the GEF's work will help to make mercury history.

Thank you.