

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO ELIMINATE TOXIC LIGHTING GLOBALLY, ENDORSING EFFORTS TO PHASE OUT FLUORESCENT LAMPS BY 2025

At the Minamata Convention on Mercury's Fifth Conference of Parties (COP5) coming up in October 2023, 141 Parties to the Convention will have an opportunity to set ambitious phase out dates for mercury-containing linear fluorescent lamps (LFL).

LFLs are within scope of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, however they are allowed to continue to be sold even though there are cost-effective, mercury-free light-emitting diode (LED) retrofit tubular lamps that can be used instead. These LED retrofits operate in the same sockets, simplifying the upgrade to LED.

Due to the highly cost-effective nature of LED technology, governments around the world are taking action to remove mercury-containing fluorescent lamps from their markets. Transitioning to efficient linear LED lighting in 2025 would avoid **198 tons of mercury** and save **9,600 TWh of the global electricity consumption between 2025 and 2050**, based on the latest market projection developed by the Clean Lighting Coalition (CLiC).\*

**Delaying the phase-out results in costly losses.** A two-year delay from 2025 to 2027 results in 36 tons of avoidable mercury pollution and a loss of US\$221 billion in electricity bill savings. A five-year delay to 2030 approximately doubles the lost savings, resulting in a loss of 82 tons of avoidable mercury pollution and over half a trillion dollars higher electricity bills.

A 2017 report on Mercury Monitoring in Women of Child-Bearing Age in the Asia and the Pacific Region found that **96% of women's hair sampled from the Pacific Islands contained significantly elevated mercury levels.** The exposure pathway is due to dietary fish intake, particularly predatory fishes which are known to accumulate significant levels of mercury in their tissue. Global action is needed to prevent additional mercury releases to the environment.

The continued sale of LFLs in the developing world including the Pacific Islands while regulations on their use (including bans) is adopted in industrialised countries will lead to these lamps being dumped.

**Required:** Decision by Ministers of the Pacific Islands to endorse efforts to phase out fluorescent lamps worldwide by 2025 through a decision at COP5 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.



- Eliminating mercury-based lighting **avoids mercury releases to the environment and saves CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;**
- Shifting demand to energy efficient LEDs in the Pacific Island countries will **advanced a transition to an all-LED global lighting market by 2025** – an essential deadline, according to the IEA, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050;
- Switching to mercury-free LED lighting brings instantaneous savings, resulting in **significant cost savings for people, businesses, and governments;** and
- Stopping production and imports of fluorescent lamps **solves the global problem of fluorescent lamp waste management and eliminates the risk of mercury exposure when a fluorescent bulb breaks.**

\*The Clean Lighting Coalition is an independent coalition of industry, public health authorities, mercury experts, and NGO partners. CLiC does not endorse any one organization or government.