

**MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY**

PROGRESS REPORT 2024



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REPORT
2024**



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Produced by:

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

International Environment House
11-13, Chemin des Anémones
CH -1219 Châtelaine Geneva
Switzerland

E-mail: mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org

Website: www.minamataconvention.org

This publication can be accessed at the Convention website.

Distr.: General, March 2025

Original: English

Suggested citation: Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (2025). Minamata Convention on Mercury: Progress Report 2024. Geneva

UNEP/MC/2025/3

UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION

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FOREWORD

“We need global attention. We need you”, Aileen Mioko Smith urgently demands of Eugene Smith in the film “Minamata”. It is a call to action that remains just as critical today. The movie captures the devastating effects of mercury poisoning on people living around Minamata Bay in Japan through the true story and the lens of the photojournalist Eugene Smith.

At the **fifth meeting** of the Conference of the Parties (**COP-5**) to the Minamata Convention, held in Geneva from 30 October to 3 November 2023, film director Andrew Levitas joined us for a **special screening** that reminded us all of the profound impact that mercury pollution has on people and the environment worldwide.

With the adoption of **21 decisions**, COP-5 significantly strengthened global efforts to combat mercury pollution with the phase out of additional mercury-added products including a **complete ban on mercury in cosmetics**, agreement on a mercury waste threshold, establishment of a group to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention, adoption of a gender action plan and a digital strategy, and recognition of the strong linkages with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

In a landmark decision on the effects of mercury pollution on **Indigenous Peoples** and local communities, COP-5 laid the foundation for their effective engagement in the implementation of projects and programmes undertaken under the Convention. To start with, the COP initiated work to compile views of Indigenous Peoples and local communities on their needs and priorities with regard to the effects of mercury on their health, livelihoods, culture and knowledge. These findings will be reported to COP-6 for its consideration of future work to identify possible solutions.

The Convention’s focus on **artisanal and small-scale gold mining** (ASGM) remains a priority, especially in light of increasing gold prices and rising emissions from ASGM activities. COP-5 reviewed progress in the implementation of **Article 7** of the Convention and called upon relevant Parties to submit their National Action Plans (**NAPs**) to the Secretariat as soon as possible. The COP also invited the Global Environment Facility

(**GEF**) to support Parties in undertaking reviews of NAPs and requested the Secretariat to prepare supplemental guidance on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of NAPs.

After six years of negotiation, Parties agreed a **15 mg/kg threshold for wastes contaminated with mercury**. This decision provides a clear framework for Parties to identify and control mercury waste, ensuring that it is managed in an environmentally sound manner. We also saw the establishment of a group to oversee the development of the first report to evaluate the **effectiveness of the Convention**, following the agreed indicators.

As we look ahead to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties (**COP-6**), to be held in Geneva from **3 to 7 November 2025** under the Chilean presidency, I invite you to explore our new Progress Report to gain insight into the work being done, the impact of the Minamata Convention, and the collective efforts shaping our future free from the harmful effects of mercury pollution.

Monika Stankiewicz

Monika Stankiewicz

Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention



MINAMATA CONVENTION COP-5 SETS NEW MILESTONES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MERCURY POLLUTION



The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (**COP-5**) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 30 October to 3 November 2023, adopted **21 decisions** to significantly strengthen global efforts to combat mercury pollution. Key outcomes included the addition of new **mercury-added products** to be phased out, such as certain batteries, switches, relays and fluorescent lamps, along with a complete ban on **mercury in cosmetics** from 2025.

After seven years of negotiations, a major agreement was reached setting **15 mg/kg total concentration of mercury** as the threshold for waste contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds. The COP also established a group to oversee, using agreed indicators, the development of a report to **evaluate the effectiveness** of the Convention for the first time.

Over 800 in-person participants and 900 online viewers attended and contributed

The meeting emphasized the importance of broadening the participation of **Indigenous Peoples** and **local communities** in the implementation of projects and programmes, including in work to reduce and eliminate the use of mercury in **artisanal and small-scale gold mining** (ASGM). The development of a **gender action plan** and **digital strategy** provided further examples of the support available to Parties in effectively implementing the Convention. Recognizing the potential for synergies with the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** (GBF), the COP encouraged Parties to advance integrated action on mercury reduction and **biodiversity**.

Over 800 in-person participants and 900 online viewers attended and contributed to various activities and knowledge labs during the week, including the exhibition area, the screening of the Minamata movie in collaboration with the **Geneva Environment Network**, a special event reflecting on the tenth anniversary of the Convention's adoption, and discussions on harmful skin-lightening practices.

The next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (**COP-6**) will convene in Geneva from 3–7 November 2025 under the Chilean presidency led by **Oswaldo Patricio Álvarez Pérez**.



Indigenous Peoples representative at COP-5. Photo by Kiaia Worth

PRIORITIES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON MERCURY POLLUTION

COP-5 noted that Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities are particularly vulnerable to mercury exposure and are among the first to face the serious health and environmental effects resulting from mercury pollution owing to their close relationship with the **environment and its resources**. It also welcomed the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and particularly the engagement of women and girls, who have faced the effects of mercury with resilience, in achieving the objective of the Convention and the targets and goals of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

COP-5 also noted the importance of broadening the participation of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities in the implementation of projects and programmes undertaken under the Minamata Convention. It encouraged Parties to **support the participation** of Indigenous Peoples' organizations, local communities and other stakeholders in meetings of the Conference of the Parties and other related processes.

The Parties to the Convention requested the Secretariat to compile views and report to COP-6 on the **needs and priorities** of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities with regard to the effects of mercury on their health, livelihoods, culture and knowledge, with a view to future work to identify possible solutions.

The Secretariat's work to implement the decision includes an **online survey** on the mentioned needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, an **Indigenous Peoples Platform** to facilitate the engagement of Indigenous Peoples, and **draft guidance** on the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the development and implementation of ASGM National Action Plans (NAPs).

REVIEWING PROGRESS ON MERCURY REDUCTIONS IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING (ASGM)

A new enabling activity was approved in June 2024 by the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, part of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention, designed to advance the full implementation of Parties' obligations to reduce and eliminate mercury use in ASGM. The new enabling activity, called "Review of the Implementation of Article 7" (or "RIA projects" for short), responds to the mandate of the Convention for those Parties that have submitted **ASGM National Action Plans (NAPs)** to periodically review and report on their progress in implementing the full range of requirements to protect human health, at-risk communities, and critical ecosystems from what continues to be the largest source of mercury emissions globally.

RIA projects will help Parties to perform a comprehensive analysis of their NAP-driven progress, including updates to baselines, progress in meeting reduction targets, and action on eliminating worst practices. Findings are expected to be incorporated into an existing **global database** maintained by the **Global Mercury Partnership**.

The Secretariat closely cooperates with UNEP and the Global Mercury Partnership on the development of a supplement to the COP-adopted **ASGM NAP guidance** to help guide Parties in their review, which will be field-tested and made available for Parties undertaking RIA projects.

The draft supplemental guidance on RIAs, as well as **draft guidance on the engagement** of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the development and implementation of ASGM NAPs, are expected to boost the effective implementation of NAPs and will be presented for consideration at COP-6.



CONTROLLING MERCURY TRADE

Following a **COP decision**, the Secretariat is **developing guidance** to assist Parties in identifying, managing and reducing the trade of mercury from primary mercury mining, thanks to the contribution of Spain. This is a relevant step toward meeting obligations under the Convention, as this trade remains a significant source of mercury used in various sectors, particularly for ASGM.

Through webinars and resources, Parties are invited to improve their understanding of the **trade provisions** of the Convention, their interrelation with its other articles, and the use of trade forms. This support, with funding from the European Union, is being provided with partners such as the UN System Staff College, InforMEA and the World Customs Organization.

Additionally, the Secretariat is in the process of drafting an updated guidance on identifying stocks and sources of mercury. The **existing guidance** dates from the Convention's inaugural COP in 2017. The update is aimed at improving understanding of the continuing obligation of identifying stocks and sources of mercury.

In the same decision, COP-5 invited Parties to submit to the Secretariat information on experiences and challenges faced in the implementation of these obligations, as well as information on activities undertaken in relation to the **Bali Declaration on combating illegal trade in mercury**. The submissions will be compiled and submitted for consideration by COP-6.

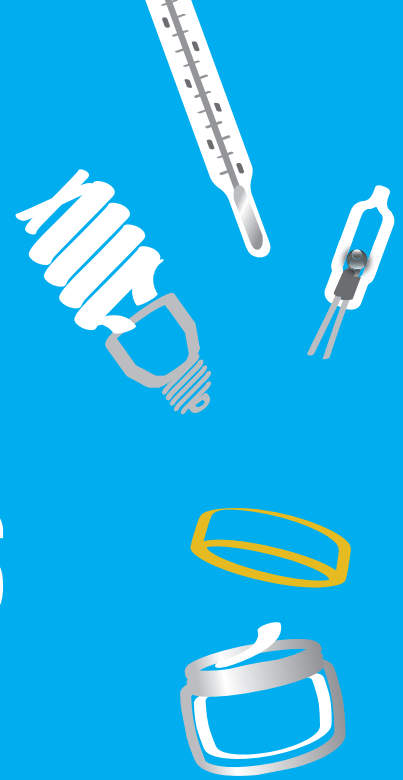
In response to **another COP-5 decision**, and thanks to support from Canada and Spain, the Secretariat has developed a draft **study** of the global supply, production, trade and use of mercury compounds to be completed with comments and input from Parties and stakeholders in early 2025.



Customs officer combating transboundary illegal trade. Photo by redbrickstock.com / Alamy Stock Photo



STOPPING THE USE OF MERCURY IN MORE PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES



COP-5 agreed to amend the Convention to phase out **more mercury-added products** including certain **fluorescent lamps**, **button batteries**, **switches** and **relays**. Controls on mercury-added **cosmetics** were also strengthened with a complete ban as of 2025.

Annexes A and B of the Convention list the **mercury-added products** and **mercury-using manufacturing processes** to be phased out or controlled along with dates of entry into force. COPs add products and processes to the annexes as mercury-free alternatives become available. For example, COP-4 in 2022 amended Annex A to bring some new mercury-added products under phase-out obligation, as well as to stop the use of **dental amalgam** for children and breastfeeding or pregnant women. Four amendments entered into force in September 2023. The COP-5 amendments will enter into force in April 2025.

Controls on mercury-added cosmetics were also strengthened with a complete ban as of 2025

In relation to the latest amendments, COP-5 invited Parties to submit to the Secretariat information on challenges in phasing out **mercury-added cosmetics**

for consideration at COP-6. Parties have also been invited to submit information on the **feasibility of alternatives** to the use of mercury and mercury compounds in vinyl chloride monomer production.

To build Parties' capacity in the control of mercury-added products, materials were developed and webinars convened **in six UN languages** under a project funded by the European Union and implemented in cooperation with the **Basel Convention Regional Centers** and other partners. A webinar on mercury-using manufacturing processes was also convened.

Skin-lightening Event at Minamata Convention COP-5 in November 2023. Photo by Kara Worth



CURBING ENVIRONMENTAL EMISSIONS AND RELEASES OF MERCURY

COP-5 adopted the **guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices** (BAT/BEP) to control mercury releases to land and water. With this, all the guidance documents mentioned in the Minamata Convention text have been adopted. The guidance document on mercury emissions to air was adopted at COP-1 in 2017. COP-5 invited Parties to **submit information** on their experience in using these guidance documents.

To further support implementation efforts, Minamata Online organized a session on **Implementation of the Minamata Convention: Article 9 – Mercury Releases to Land and Water**. Organized in cooperation with the Global Mercury Partnership, the session covered key guidance documents, including the release inventory guidance adopted at COP-4 and the BAT/BEP guidance adopted at COP-5.

As part of broader efforts to support mercury emissions reduction, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is preparing to lead the development of a GEF-supported **Global Elimination of Mercury in Non-ferrous Metals Initiative (GEMINI)**. The programme, which builds on past progress in implementing COP decisions, is expected to be submitted for approval by GEF Council in June 2025.



THRESHOLD SET FOR MERCURY WASTE MANAGEMENT

COP-5 completed the task of defining mercury waste to be controlled under the Convention. **Mercury waste** is now defined as mercury or mercury compounds that have become waste, mercury-added products that have become waste, or waste contaminated with mercury above 15 mg/kg in total mercury concentration.

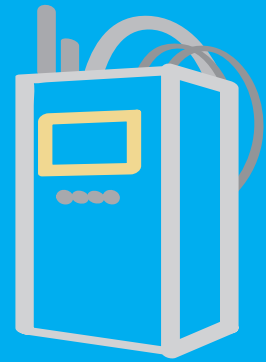
While setting the **15 mg/kg threshold**, COP-5 allowed Parties to use different approaches to determining whether a given waste falls under the Convention, provided that documented waste management measures are in place. Other elements of the definition were agreed at earlier COPs.

Parties were also invited to submit information on their **waste management regulations** and programmes for Parties' consideration in advance of COP-6. Additionally, the Secretariat developed new **capacity-building materials** and convened webinars on mercury waste management in six UN languages with financial support from the government of Switzerland.

COP-5 adopted a threshold of 15 mg/kg total mercury concentration for defining mercury waste



EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONVENTION



Representatives of Parties to the Minamata Convention started to work on the development of the first evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention at COP-4 in 2022. The **Effectiveness Evaluation Group** (EEG) was established by a **decision** at COP-5 and held its first online meeting in June 2024, where it elected Itsuki Kuroda (Japan) and Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda) as co-chairs and agreed on a timeline for its work. The outcome of the evaluation, using agreed indicators based on national reporting submissions, is expected to be ready for consideration at COP-7 scheduled to take place in 2027.

The EEG is composed of **25 participants**, comprising five representatives of Parties from each of the five United Nations regions, and nominated by the regions. Supported by invited experts and observers, the EEG is working online as well as holding up to two face-to-face meetings, and has established thematic sub-groups to advance its work.

The **Open-Ended Scientific Group** (OESG), established by COP-4 and co-chaired by Dominique Bally Kpokro (Côte d'Ivoire) and Terry Keating (United States of America), is working to develop scientific reports on mercury monitoring, emissions and releases. A workshop on mercury emissions and releases was held in Cape Town, South Africa, in July 2024, back-to-back with the International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant. The scientific report of the group will be discussed at the second in-person meeting of the OESG to be held in Minamata, Japan, on 17–21 March 2025.

The outcome of the evaluation is expected to be ready for consideration at COP-7

Open-Ended Scientific Group in-person meeting. Geneva, March 2023



PARTIES REACH 80% NATIONAL REPORTING RATE

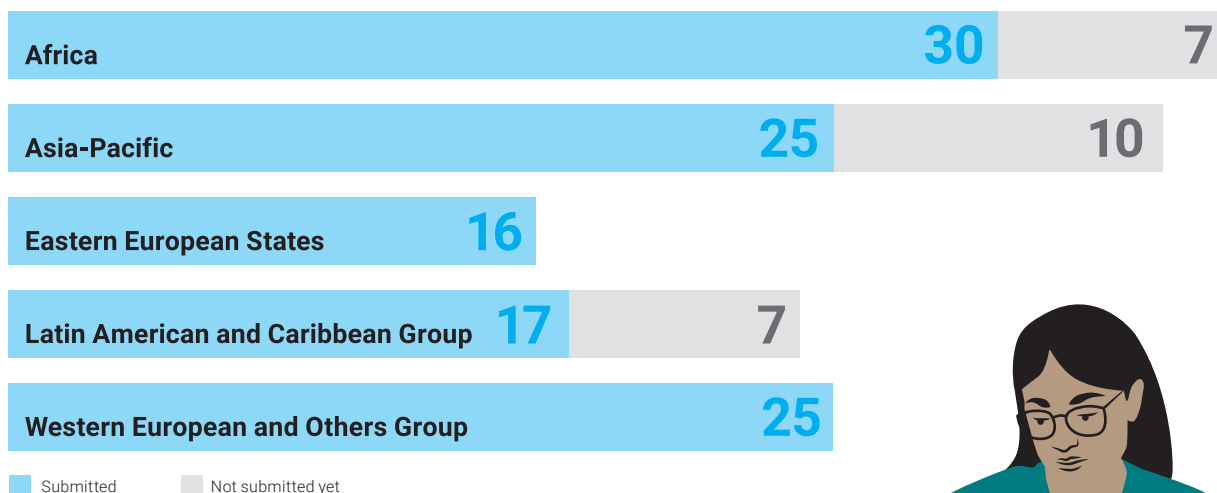


The Parties to the Minamata Convention reached an 80% reporting rate for the **second short reporting** cycle from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022. Of the 137 Parties to the Convention during this period, 113 Parties had submitted their reports as of 31 December 2024.

Parties **are required** to report on the measures taken, the effectiveness of such measures, and the challenges faced in implementing their Convention obligations. National reports are a key source of information for work done by bodies under the COP, such as the **Implementation and Compliance Committee** (ICC)

and the **Effectiveness Evaluation Group**. The ICC can use the reports to examine systemic issues of implementation and compliance and to craft recommendations to the COP.

The Secretariat has provided support for Parties to complete and submit their reports, including online sessions, additional online resources and regular outreach and follow-up. The ICC, currently chaired by Anik Baudoin (Canada), welcomed the high rate of **reporting performance** of Parties for the second short national reports.



113 Parties had submitted their reports as of 31 December 2024



A NEW ROUND OF SUPPORT FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING

In 2024, the Governing Board of the **Specific International Programme** to support Capacity Building and Technical Assistance (SIP) launched a new round of applications. The SIP is one of the two components of the **financial mechanism** of the Minamata Convention, together with the GEF, and is administered through the Convention Secretariat. Between the establishment of its trust fund in 2018 and 2024, the SIP supported **24 projects** in 22 developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition around the world, including Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

SIP projects provide direct capacity-building support to address specific implementation needs identified by eligible Parties. **Fifteen SIP projects** have already completed their activities, enhancing Parties' capacity to meet their obligations under the Convention. SIP project **activities** range from mercury waste management to phasing out mercury-added products, eliminating mercury use in the chlor-alkali industry, reducing the presence of mercury in vulnerable populations, improving mercury inventories, developing regional hubs for mercury analyses, and developing or improving relevant legislation and national strategies. Fact sheets, final reports and terminal evaluations are available on the [Convention website](#) in addition to a dashboard that has been developed to visualize information about projects funded in the SIP rounds of applications.

A **mid-term evaluation** of the SIP concluded that it is responding to the needs identified by Parties and that the support provided is clearly contributing to strengthening the capacity of Parties to meet their obligations under the Convention, as demonstrated by the results of completed and ongoing projects. The evaluator also developed a theory of change, a stakeholder analysis, and a results framework for the SIP that have been published on the Convention website.

In April 2024, the **SIP Governing Board** elected Obed Meringo Baloyi (South Africa) and Andrew Clark (United States of America) as co-chairs. The Board reviewed progress on all projects approved in three rounds of applications to the SIP and decided to launch the new round on 24 April 2024. A total of twenty-nine eligible project proposals were submitted by the July 2024 deadline, the highest number since the inauguration of the Programme and three times the number of applications received in the first round, indicating steadily growing demand for SIP funding.

Additional contributions to the **Specific Trust Fund** will allow more projects to be approved in future SIP rounds. Contributions are welcome from Governments, the private sector, foundations, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, academia, and civil society actors.

Contributions and Pledges to the Specific Trust Fund 2018-2024 (USD) Total USD 8,437,142 (as of 20 December 2024)

Norway 2,748,661	Switzerland 1,214,869	United States 903,083	Sweden 809,577	
	Germany 1,118,927	Austria 505,194	Netherlands 331,193	United Kingdom 305,235
			France 324,144	Denmark 176,260

GENDER ACTION PLAN AND PRIORITIES

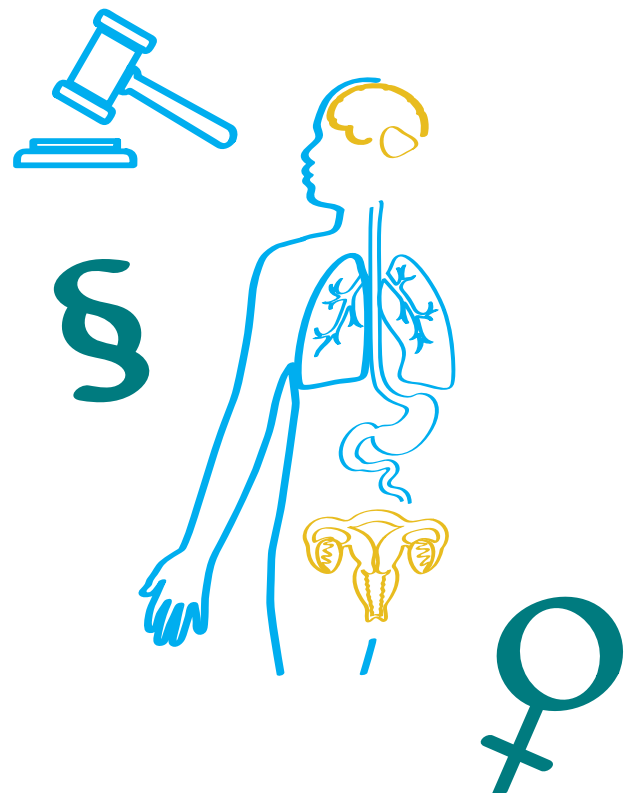


COP-5 welcomed the **gender action plan** for the Minamata Convention and invited Parties and the Secretariat to carry out **activities** in 2024–2025 to implement it. The plan is organized around proposed actions for the Secretariat, Parties and other relevant stakeholders.

Thanks to a financial contribution from Sweden, the Secretariat has developed communication materials to raise awareness of the gender action plan and priority activities as well as training materials for Parties on operationalizing the plan and a pocket guide.

The Secretariat's activities include the review of national reports to identify measures related to the control of mercury-added products used primarily by women and children; the review of gender elements in existing ASGM NAPs (funded by Finland); and the development of case studies on the gender dimensions of SIP projects (also funded by Finland).

The Secretariat is also working in collaboration with the GEF Secretariat on the delivery of gender-sensitive **training** in the development of project proposals, and the measurement of the meaningful participation of women in Convention-related meetings, processes and activities.





YOUTH ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

Ten youth-led and youth-focused projects aiming to increase **public awareness** about the dangers of mercury and reduce mercury pollution shared their efforts with the wider Minamata community through the **Convention's youth engagement initiative**. Initiatives in Japan, Peru, the Philippines and Mongolia, among others, are paving the way in their awareness-raising efforts to tackle toxic mercury.

Initiatives in Japan, Peru, the Philippines and Mongolia are paving the way in their awareness-raising efforts to tackle toxic mercury

The Convention acknowledges health concerns in its preamble, particularly regarding the effects of mercury on populations in vulnerable situations, such as women and children. Annex C of the Convention outlines strategies within National Action Plans (NAPs) to prevent mercury exposure with special focus on children and women of child-bearing age. The Secretariat is developing tangible pathways for **stronger youth engagement** within the Convention.

The importance of engaging children and youth as drivers of change has been widely acknowledged, including in the United Nations **Pact for the Future** and the **Declaration on Future Generations**, which reaffirm the role of young people in addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.



FIRST DIGITAL STRATEGY UNDER IMPLEMENTATION



The management of knowledge related to the Convention is being thoroughly enhanced after COP-5's support to a **digital strategy**. Parties encouraged further collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to enhance digital tools, data exchange and knowledge-sharing processes, and platforms like the United Nations Information Portal on MEAs (**InforMEA**).

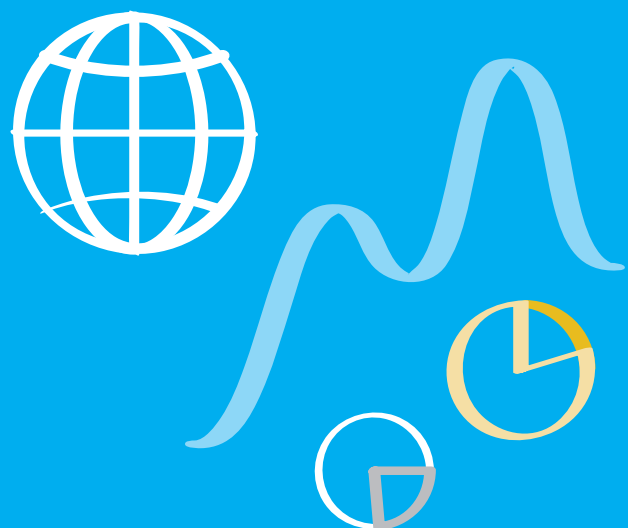
The Secretariat collaborates with InforMEA to enhance digital tools, data exchange and knowledge-sharing processes

The Secretariat has launched new sections on the Convention's website, providing users with streamlined access to content categorized by thematic areas, enabling easier navigation, and making progress more visible. An improved **online tool** was deployed to assist Parties in meeting their **reporting obligations**, incorporating features including enhanced user interfaces, multi-language support and advanced data cross-referencing.

Another key advance was the development of **data visualizations** and **dynamic dashboards** for national reporting and for GEF and SIP projects. These tools have improved the communication of progress and allowed for more impactful outreach. The dashboards also facilitate data analysis, supporting interoperability and accuracy while minimizing duplication of effort.

The Secretariat also strengthened **partnerships** with other MEAs under the umbrella of InforMEA and hosted a side event at the **sixth United National Environment Assembly** (UNEA-6) focused on digital transformation's potential to catalyze environmental impact.

E-learning efforts such as **Minamata Tools** and **Minamata Online** exemplified the Secretariat's commitment to capacity-building and global knowledge dissemination.



MERCURY AND THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



COP-5 welcomed the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), recognizing that, through the implementation of the Minamata Convention, Parties can significantly contribute to global efforts to conserve and sustainably use **biodiversity**.

To further support these synergies, the Secretariat released [Mercury and biodiversity](#), a publication produced with financial support from Norway and Sweden that explores opportunities for generating co-benefits through coherent implementation of the Minamata Convention and the GBF.

Building on this work, COP-5 requested the Secretariat to develop a draft roadmap, including possible actions and indicators, to assist Parties in their efforts to mainstream and improve coherence between biodiversity conservation and mercury control measures. As part of the roadmap and in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the Secretariat has started the work on technical guidance on integrating action to reduce mercury pollution from gold mining into **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans** (NBSAPs). NBSAPs are the main tool for national implementation of the GBF.

COP-5 also invited Parties to the CBD to consider adding indicators to the **GBF monitoring framework** covering highly hazardous chemicals and mercury, and encouraged countries to integrate mercury action into biodiversity-related projects of the GEF Trust Fund and the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.

The GBF, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the **Convention on Biological Diversity** (CBD) at its fifteenth meeting in December 2022, sets out an ambitious pathway to reach the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature. Nearly all of the 23 targets of the GBF provide important entry points for the Minamata Convention to contribute to the Framework's implementation. Pollution, including that caused by mercury and other heavy metals, is identified by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity (IPBES) as one of the five **main drivers** of biodiversity loss.

In January 2024, representatives of the Minamata Convention participated in the [Bern III Conference](#) on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions for the implementation of the GBF. The discussions highlighted the crucial role of chemicals and waste conventions in enhancing coherence among multilateral environmental agreements to tackle pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change.

Later in the year, the Secretariat participated in the **sixteenth meeting of the CBD COP** (COP-16) in Cali, Colombia, as well as in CBD subsidiary body meetings leading to the COP, to bring the relevant decisions of the Minamata Convention COPs to the [participants' attention](#) and for their action. Among others, the Secretariat co-organized a [Forest and Water Day](#) during COP-16, focusing on the conservation and sustainable use of forests and water-related ecosystems, and a [side event](#) on the role of chemicals and waste in protecting biodiversity. COP-16 reinforced partnerships and commitment to tackling mercury pollution, particularly in key biodiversity hotspots like the Amazon region.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

The Secretariat has released new **publications, infographics and factsheets** to enhance awareness, knowledge and implementation of the Convention. Also, reflecting amendments adopted at COP-5, a major update of the **Convention text** has been made available online, ensuring that Parties and stakeholders can access the most current version.

Infographics

MERCURY EMISSIONS
Mercury is an extremely toxic chemical that can enter the environment as emissions into the atmosphere from human activities. Mercury emissions can travel long distances, accumulate through the food chain, and negatively impact human health and the environment.

RISKS
There is substantial health risk associated with people who are exposed to mercury emissions. These range from irritation of the skin and eyes to severe mercury poisoning from consumption.

MERCURY EXPOSURE AFFECTS HUMAN HEALTH
Mercury exposure can affect the nervous system, kidneys, and lungs. It can also affect the immune system and cause developmental delays in children.

MERCURY IMPACTS BIODIVERSITY
Mercury can accumulate in the food chain, affecting the health and survival of many species, including fish, birds, and mammals.

SOURCES
Mercury is primarily released into the air from coal-fired power plants, gold mining, and other industrial processes. It is also found in natural sources like volcanoes and the Earth's crust.

SOLUTIONS
Reducing mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants and gold mining is a key solution. Other measures include using mercury-free products and recycling mercury-containing items.

HOW WE MAKE MERCURY HISTORY
The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty that helps countries to control, reduce and eliminate mercury across all its life-stages with an ultimate goal to protect human health and the environment.

SUPPLY AND TRADE
Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

MERCURY AND BIODIVERSITY
Mercury is a highly bioaccumulative chemical that impacts human health and the environment. From human-made sources, mercury accumulates in many ecosystems, such as tropical forests, mangroves, oceans and the Arctic, leading to detrimental impacts on biodiversity.

MERCURY AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING
Mercury is used in small-scale gold mining to separate gold from ore. This process releases mercury into the environment, which can then be taken up by plants and animals in the food chain.

Publications

MERCURY AND BIODIVERSITY
Opportunities for generating co-benefits through coherent implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

GUIDANCE ON MERCURY RELEASES

Scientific and technical series

UN environment programme MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Factsheets

2024 Fact Sheet on MERCURY EMISSIONS
Mercury is emitted to the environment by human activities, travels long distances, accumulates through the food chain and impacts human health and the environment. Some mercury-added products, such as cosmetics, paint, and fluorescent lamps, contain mercury.

2024 Fact Sheet on MERCURY TRADE
Mercury is traded internationally for use in consumer products and released during the process, causing harm to human health and the environment. Some mercury-added products, such as cosmetics, paint, and fluorescent lamps, contain mercury.

2024 Fact Sheet on MERCURY - ADDED PRODUCTS
Mercury is used in many consumer products, such as fluorescent lamps, paint, and cosmetics. The use of mercury in these products is being phased out in many countries.

Key Statistics:

- 38% of global mercury demand for mercury comes from the products.
- 1% of mercury is used in consumer products and released during the process, causing harm to human health and the environment.
- 14% of mercury is used in consumer products and released during the process, causing harm to human health and the environment.
- 21% of mercury is used in consumer products and released during the process, causing harm to human health and the environment.
- 3,850-4,400 tonnes of mercury are used in consumer products and released during the process, causing harm to human health and the environment.
- 1,400-2,000 tonnes of mercury are used in consumer products and released during the process, causing harm to human health and the environment.

THE FUTURE WE WANT

MINAMATA

CONVENTION

2013

After years of meetings and five intergovernmental sessions, the text of the Minamata Convention is adopted by over 140 countries at the **Diplomatic Conference in Kumamoto** (Japan).

The signatures demonstrate the countries' resolve to work towards the Convention's objective of **protecting human health and the environment from mercury**.

2017

The **Minamata Convention on Mercury** enters into force on 16 August.

It is named after **Minamata Bay** (Japan) to keep in mind the lessons of the tragic health damage by industrial mercury pollution in the 1950-60s.

The **1st Conference of the Parties (COP-1)** adopts guidance on BAT/BEP for controlling mercury emissions as well as trade in mercury, and on reducing and eliminating mercury use in ASGM.

2020

Deadline for phasing out manufacture, import and export of listed **mercury-added products** (including certain lamps, batteries, cosmetics, pesticides).

2021

COP-4.1 (online segment) continues the multilateral work, including review of the annexes and **second reporting deadline** for parties to the Convention.

2023

COP-5 defines new phase out dates for mercury-added products including **cosmetics**, strengthens ties with **Indigenous Peoples** and local communities, and reaches an agreement on a **threshold for mercury waste**.

2032

Deadline for ending **primary mercury mining** in known producing parties.

2016

The **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-7)** at the Dead Sea (Jordan) finalizes the Best Available Techniques / Best Environmental Practices guidance (BAT/BEP) on air emissions.

Agreement on guidance for developing **National Action Plans** on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM).

2018

Deadline for phasing out any **acetaldehyde production using mercury** (responsible for the pollution of Minamata Bay).

COP-2 adopts guidelines on the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury other than waste mercury.

2019

COP-3 adopts guidance on the management of contaminated sites. First reporting deadline for parties.

The Convention also includes measures to phase down mercury dental amalgam and to reduce mercury by half when used in vinyl chloride monomer production processes (used for plastic products).

2022

COP-4.2 (in-person segment) in Bali, Indonesia focuses on **effectiveness evaluation**, mainstreaming gender within the activities and the **first amendment** to the text of the Convention.

2025

COP-6 to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, with a focus on **national implementation** and reporting, mercury use in products and industrial processes, trade-related measures, and enhanced cooperation.

Deadline for phasing out **mercury-cell chlor-alkali production** and eight **product categories** (such as photographic film and spacecraft propellant).

MULTILATERALISM MAKES MERCURY HISTORY

* This list is not meant to be exhaustive but rather a small sample of the Convention's multilateral work.

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty aimed at protecting human health and the environment from the harmful impacts of mercury. It was agreed and adopted in 2013, and entered into force on **16 August 2017**. The Convention continues to expand its reach, with the number of Parties from all around the world now standing at **152**.

Headquartered in **Geneva**, Switzerland, the Secretariat of the Convention is headed by Executive Secretary **Monika Stankiewicz**. The Secretariat's functions include providing assistance to Parties in fulfilling their obligations and supporting the exchange of information; preparing periodic reports; supporting global initiatives; making arrangements for COP meetings and its subsidiary bodies; and collaborating with other secretariats, particularly those of other chemicals and waste conventions, and the broader **UNEP family**.



MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY