

Report of the Latin America and the Caribbean regional preparatory meeting for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

3 and 4 September 2025, Santiago, Chile

1. Overview

The Latin America and the Caribbean regional meeting in Santiago, Chile, was attended by a total of sixty-eight participants. Among these, thirty-eight participants represented seventeen Parties (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Uruguay) in the region. The remaining thirty participants represented one non-Party country (Guatemala), three UN bodies (the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury), and seven NGOs. Representatives from the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, the Global Framework on Chemicals, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution (SPP) participated online.

The meeting was hosted by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, Chile. Financial support for travel of eligible participants to attend the meeting was generously provided by Switzerland.

The meeting was chaired by the GRULAC Geneva Environment Coordinator, Ms. Miriam Gabriela Medel García (Mexico), with support from the members of the COP-6 Bureau from the region, Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda) and Mr. Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez Pérez (Chile), also COP-6 President.

2. Proceedings

The meeting was opened by Ambassador Julio Cordano, Director of the Environment, Climate Change, and Oceans Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile, followed by Ms. Constance Nalegach, Head of the Office of International Affairs of the Ministry of the Environment, Chile; Mr. Carlos de Miguel, Director of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, ECLAC; Mr. Juan Bello, UNEP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean (online); Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and Ms. Miriam Gabriela Medel García, meeting Chair.

The participants adopted the agenda of the meeting after hearing an overview of the provisional programme.

The Secretariat presented information on the organization of work at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-6), logistical preparations, and matters for consideration or action by COP-6, with several of the Secretariat members presenting online. During the afternoon session of the first day of the meeting, participants were invited to participate in a training on negotiating effectively in a contact group developed by the Secretariat thanks to the contribution of Germany.

The Secretariat informed that most of the meeting documents were available on the Convention website, either in six UN languages or as an English-only advance version, and that all documents would be available

by the deadline established by the rules of procedure for having documents available for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

Under the agenda item on international cooperation, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, the Secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals, and the Secretariat of the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution (SPP) provided updates with respect to the chemicals and waste cluster in online format. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat of the Escazu Agreement and the Human Rights Representative in South America also provided updates with respect to their work with the Minamata Convention. A discussion took place on those matters, including questions, clarifications, expression of views on specific agenda items, and input from observers.

During the second day of the meeting, Parties had the opportunity to engage in regional consultations in closed session.

The Minamata Convention Executive Secretary, the meeting chair and the two regional members of the COP-6 Bureau closed the meeting with brief closing remarks.