

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

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**Eastern European States regional preparatory meeting for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury**



**16-17 September 2025**

International Environment House I,  
Geneva, Switzerland

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury  
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**NOTE:** This document provides links to external and third-party websites, for the convenience of meeting participants, and for use at their discretion. The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury cannot vouch for the accuracy or correctness of the information contained therein.

## GENERAL

The **Eastern European States regional preparatory meeting** for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-6) is scheduled to be held at Geneva, Switzerland, on **16 and 17 September 2025**.

## MEETING VENUE

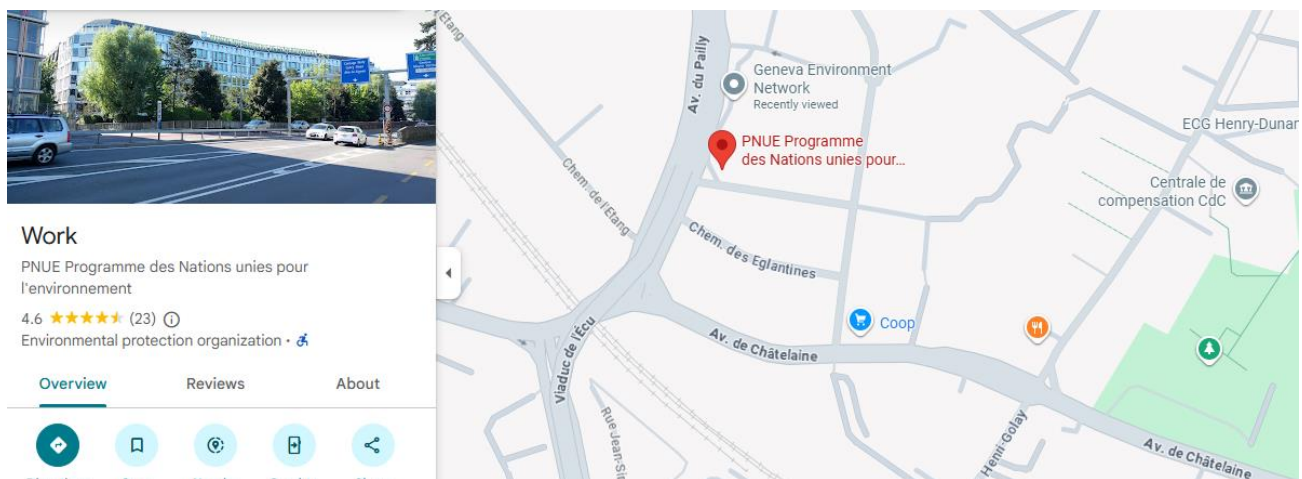
The regional consultations will be held at:

### Room 2

#### International Environment House 1

Chemin des Anémones 11-13  
CH-1219 Châtelaine-Geneva  
Switzerland

Please [click here](#) for location on Google Maps.



## SCHEDULE

The COP-6 regional preparatory meeting will be formally opened at 9.00 on Tuesday, 16 September. It is suggested that the Eastern European State Parties meet from 9.00 to 13.00 and from 14.00 to 18.00 on 16 and 17 September 2025.

Lunch breaks are planned to be held between 13h00 and 14h00.

## REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION BADGES

Registration of the participants will take place on Tuesday, 16 September 2025 just outside Room 2 at the



International Environment House I. **Identification badges** will be issued to participants at registration.

## LANGUAGE

The regional preparatory meeting will be conducted in English.

## MEETING DOCUMENTS

The **provisional agenda** for the meeting has been developed in cooperation with the COP-6 Bureau members for the region and will be posted on the [COP-6 webpage](#). The agenda includes presentations of the documents for COP-6 (to be held from 3 – 7 November 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland) followed by discussions among Governments and possible development of positions for the various issues to be addressed at COP-6.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

Participants are responsible for obtaining any necessary visa for entering Switzerland as well as any transit visa. Visas must be obtained prior to arrival. Please note that a Schengen visa is required even for transiting through Schengen zone European countries. As time required for the processing of visa requests may vary, it is strongly recommended that visa applications be made sufficiently in advance. More information is available on the website of the [Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs](#).

## ARRANGEMENT FOR SPONSORED DELEGATES

Thanks to the donor contributions, financial assistance may be available to support the participation of **one delegate per eligible developing country Party and Party with economy in transition**. The assistance will include daily subsistence allowance (DSA) at United Nations rate and round-trip ticket. The sponsored participant must be clearly specified in the official nomination letter. We encourage that the required information is provided to the Secretariat at the earliest convenience, and no later than 1 August 2025.

Once confirmed for participation, the sponsored participants will receive additional instructions on their travel arrangements. Air travel will be arranged according to the United Nations regulations, via the most economical and direct means possible in all cases. Please note that changes to air tickets after they have been issued will not be permitted.

In order to facilitate the payment of subsistence allowance at the venue, sponsored participants will be requested to submit **copies of their passport and boarding passes** to the Secretariat staff at the meeting venue. For any query related to **travel and DSA**, sponsored participants are invited to contact the Secretariat at: [mea-minamatameetings@un.org](mailto:mea-minamatameetings@un.org).

Please note that sponsored participants who are unable to stay for the entire duration of the meeting are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible after their arrival, so that their subsistence allowance can be adjusted accordingly.

## ACCOMMODATION

Participants are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements in advance of the meeting and for covering any associated incurred costs. The Secretariat encourages all Parties to make such arrangements at the earliest possible opportunity. An updated list of hotels offering preferential rates to the United Nations is available [here](#).



Please note:

- Hotels in Geneva are highly occupied during annual events such as trade fairs and conferences listed above. For details on the exact dates, please contact the hotels directly.
- The rates are strictly preferential and they are not available to the public, therefore use of this benefit is limited to the UN System Organizations and UN Permanent Missions based in Geneva.
- Travellers are expected to make their own arrangements directly with the hotels.
- City/tourist tax is added by most hotels on top of the room price and it varies depending on the hotel class (per night per person: CHF 1.65-4.75 in Geneva, CHF 2.60-4.20 in Lausanne, EUR 0.20-4.00 in France). In exchange, guests may be offered a pass for public transport.
- The prices in this database and other information are not subject to any binding offer between the UN and the accommodation providers. The accommodation providers reserve the right to change the rates without any prior notice.

**NOTE:** the Secretariat cannot vouch for accuracy of the information or rates contained in the document. The list is meant purely for reference and for ease of participants. Please confirm the room rates with the hotel directly.

## LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

### By public transport:

#### From the Geneva International Airport:

- Take **BUS 10** [http://tpg.ch/fr/horaires-et-reseau/horaires/par-ligne/ligne\\_19\\_11.12.2011.php](http://tpg.ch/fr/horaires-et-reseau/horaires/par-ligne/ligne_19_11.12.2011.php)  
Direction Rive
- Get off at the bus stop **Guye**
- Change for **BUS 6** or **BUS 19** Direction Vernier
- Get off at the bus stop **Châtelaine**

#### From the Cornavin railway station:

- Take **BUS 6** or **BUS 19** Direction Vernier
- Get off at the bus stop **Châtelaine**

#### From the Palais des Nations:

- Take **BUS 22** Direction ZIPL0
- Get off at the bus stop **Châtelaine**

#### From the bus stop Châtelaine to **International Environment House I:**

- Continue walking on the avenue de Châtelaine in the same direction in which the bus goes.
- Take Chemin de Maisonneuve, which is the first street on your right.
- Take the second street on your left and walk to the end of the road.
- The International Environment House I is on your right-hand side.

You can get your UNIRESO 80 minutes ticket for Geneva Public Transport (Zone 10) for free. The ticket machine for free ticket is located at the luggage retrieval hall and prints the free ticket without requirements or limitations upon the pressing of the button.

Free ticket entitles you to take an airport train (train from the airport to the center), bus, tram and mouette.



Ticket is transferable and allows the free use of public transport in the city for a period of 80 minutes. UNIRESO tickets can be obtained from the machine in the luggage collection area on the arrivals level of the airport.

Many hotels give their residents a UNIRESO pass to use during their stay. For more information about public transportation in Geneva, please visit [www.tpg.ch](http://www.tpg.ch).

### **By taxi**

The Geneva International Airport (Geneva Cointrin) is about 3 kilometres from the International Environment House I, approximately 10 minutes by taxi. Taxis are readily available for visitors travelling from the Geneva Cointrin Airport. For a taxi from the city center, you may call 022 320 22 02 or 022 331 41 33.

Taxis are easily available, but comparatively expensive.

### **By Uber**

Uber is available in Geneva. Participants who have the Uber app have the option of using Uber.

Participants with mobility issues requiring special arrangements are invited to contact the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in advance of the meeting at: [mea-minamatameetings@un.org](mailto:mea-minamatameetings@un.org).

## **HEALTH AND VACCINATION**

**Participants with a chronic illness** should carry all necessary medication and medical items for the entire duration of the journey, in their original containers, clearly labelled.

**Participants are advised to seek medical insurance** with appropriate cover abroad, i.e. accident, sickness, medical repatriation and death. The United Nations does not cover life or medical insurance for participants. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the participants or of their governments to obtain adequate insurance prior to travel to Switzerland.

Participants with mobility issues requiring special arrangements are invited to contact the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in advance of the meeting at: [mea-minamatameetings@un.org](mailto:mea-minamatameetings@un.org).

## **CURRENCY AND RATE OF EXCHANGE**

The currency in Switzerland is the **Swiss Franc (CHF)**. The exchange rate is approximately 1 USD~0,93 CHF. 1.07 Euro~1 CHF as of 28 July 2025. Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels and restaurants in Switzerland.

## **ELECTRIC PLUG AND SOCKET**

Participants are strongly encouraged to carry their own adapters for use with laptops and other electrical appliances as the Secretariat will not be able to provide these.

- Voltage: 220 volts
- Frequency: 50 Hz
- Plug/socket: C (CEE 7/16), J





## INTERNET SERVICES

Free Wi-Fi is available at the meeting venue.

## CATERING SERVICES

There is a cafeteria in the International Environment House I.

[Cafeteria Eldora](#)

Phone: +41 22 917 8510

## ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

Participants with mobility issues requiring special arrangements are invited to contact the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention in advance of the meeting at: [mea-minamatameetings@un.org](mailto:mea-minamatameetings@un.org).

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Although Geneva is a comparatively safe place, and violent crime is rare, participants are advised to pay particular attention at the airport, around the Cornavin railway station and to not leave their luggage unattended at any time.

You may contact the UN Security Desk at International Environment House I at +41 22 917 8462.

## TIME ZONE AND WEATHER INFORMATION

### Time zone

Geneva operates in Central European Summer Time (CEST), which is UTC +2. The clock change will take place on 26 October 2025 (CET = UTC+1).

### Weather

The climate of Geneva is a temperate climate, more specifically an oceanic climate. Winters are cool, usually with light frosts at night and thawing conditions during the day. Summers are relatively warm. Precipitation is adequate and is relatively well-distributed throughout the year, although autumn is slightly wetter than other seasons.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

The United Nations issued the Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN System events, which include meetings, conferences, side events, workshops and other events organized under the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention is committed to enabling events at which everyone can participate in an inclusive, respectful and safe environment. Delegates are invited to familiarize themselves with the Code of Conduct, which can be accessed [here](#).

## GREENING THE COP

The Minamata Convention Secretariat has taken steps to enhance and promote the environmental sustainability of its activities, including in the preparation and conduct of its regional preparatory meetings. For more information, please visit: <https://minamataconvention.org/en/meetings/cop6#information-participants>.



## **DISCLAIMER**

The United Nations Environment Programme disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended that participants secure prior to departure insurance for the period of participation.

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