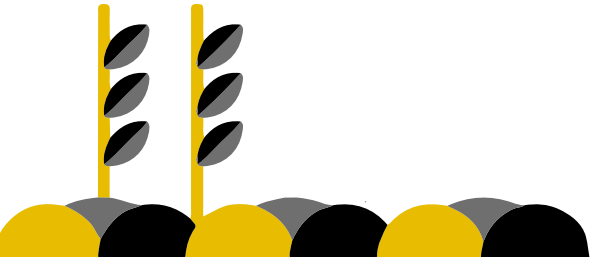


COP-6 Information Session: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

Minamata Online Season 5 / 2025

10 September 2025

13:00 – 14:30 CEST



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 **MINAMATA**
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY

Housekeeping:

Notes on the Q&A

The Secretariat will open the floor for **questions after every set of documents**. You may type your **question(s) in the chat box** and send to “everyone”.

Time permitting, we will open the floor for questions at the end of the session. Participants may raise their hand and we will call on you.

If you need any **technical assistance**, please put your message in the chat box and send it to the host or co-host.

To help us make future webinars even better, **we invite you to complete the short survey provided at the end of this session**.

Tentative Schedule of Work (INF/4)

COP-6	Monday, 3 November 2025	Tuesday, 4 November 2025	Wednesday, 5 November 2025	Thursday, 6 November 2025	Friday, 7 November 2025
<p>10:00-13:00</p> <p>Morning session</p>	<p>Item 1: Opening of the meeting</p> <p>Item 2: Organizational matters</p> <p>(a) Adoption of the agenda (b) Organization of work (c) Election of officers (d) Report on the credentials</p> <p>Item 3: Rules of procedure and financial rules</p> <p>Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>(e) Financial resources and mechanism (i) Global Environment Facility (ii) Specific International Programme (iii) Review of the financial mechanism</p>	<p><i>Reports of contact groups</i></p> <p>Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>(c) ASGM (d) Waste (f) Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer</p> <p>Item 6: Programme of work and budget</p>	<p><i>Consideration of outcomes and reports of contact groups</i></p> <p>Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>(j) Cross-cutting matters: (i) Implementation of decision MC-5/1 (ii) Implementation of decision MC-5/15</p> <p>(k) Knowledge management (l) Mercury and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</p> <p>Item 5: International cooperation and coordination</p>	<p><i>Consideration of outcomes, adoption of report on credentials and adoption of decisions</i></p> <p>Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties (cont.)</p>	<p><i>Consideration of remaining outcomes and adoption of remaining decisions</i></p> <p>Item 6: Programme of work and budget (cont.)</p> <p>Adoption of the budget decision</p> <p>Item 7: Venue and dates of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>Item 8: Other matters</p>
13:00-15:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
<p>15:00-18:00</p> <p>Afternoon session</p>	<p>Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>(b) Mercury-added products and manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used: (i) Amendments to annex A (iii) Vinyl chloride monomer (ii) Cosmetics (iv) Extensions for exemptions (a) Mercury supply sources and trade</p>	<p>Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>(g) Implementation and Compliance Committee (h) National reporting (i) Effectiveness evaluation</p>	<p><i>Consideration of outcomes</i></p> <p>Item 4: Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties (cont.)</p>	<p><i>Consideration of outcomes and adoption of remaining decisions</i></p>	<p>Item 9: Adoption of the report of the meeting</p> <p>Item 10: Closure of the meeting</p>

Background

ASGM



ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING



Produces up to **20% of world's gold**



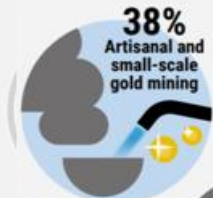
Employs **10-20 M** people typically in remote rural areas



Involves **4 to 5 million women and children**



Takes place in **80 countries** and often in areas where there is **limited economic opportunity**



Releases **38% of all mercury** pollution to the environment



Is often considered as **informal sector**



Article 7: Obligation Overview



Artisanal and small-scale gold mining – What the Convention says

Parties that have ASGM using mercury amalgamation in their territories are to take steps to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, such mining and processing (Art. 7, para. 2)

ASGM in its territory is more than insignificant ...

Notify the secretariat that it has determined that ASGM is more than insignificant in its territory. (Art. 7, para. 3)

Develop and implement a national action plan (NAP) in accordance with Annex C of the Convention. (Art. 7. para. 3(a), also see MC-1/3 Guidance on developing NAP)

Submit the national action plan to the secretariat no later than three years after the Convention entered into force for it or three years after the notification to the secretariat, whichever is later. (Art. 7. para. 3(b))

Provide a review every three years of the progress made in meeting its obligation and include such review in its national reports pursuant to Article 21. (Art. 7, para. 3(c))

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Annex C Elements

CONTENT OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN according to the Minamata Convention *(Annex C)*



Strategies to eliminate worst practices and promote mercury-free methods



Steps to facilitate the formalization or regulation



Baseline estimates of the quantities of mercury used and the practices employed



Strategies for managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury



Strategies for providing information to ASGM affected communities



A public health strategy on the exposure of miners and their communities to mercury

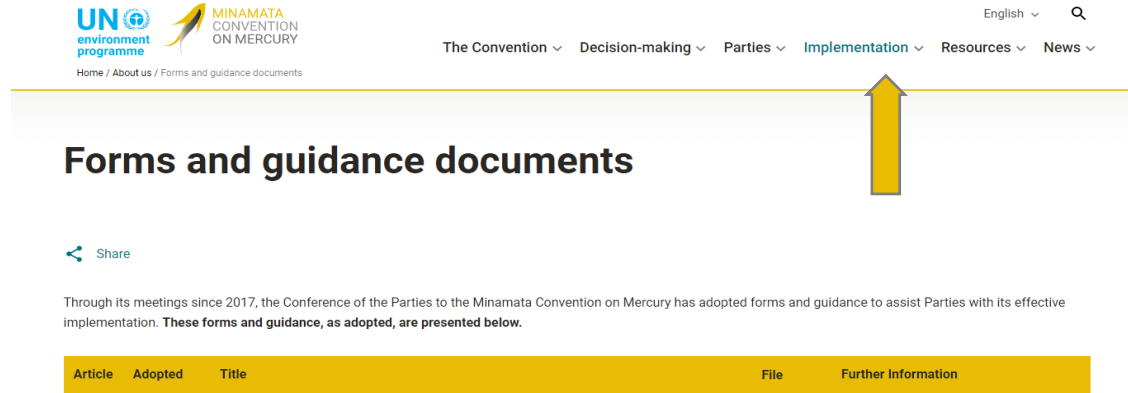
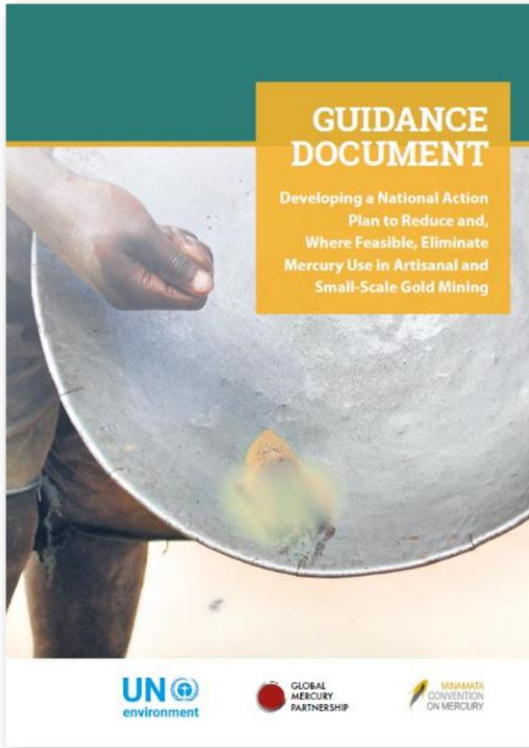


Strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations



Strategies for mercury-free ASGM and market-based mechanisms or marketing tools.

The COP adopted guidance for developing NAPs



UN environment programme MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

English 🔍

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Home / About us / Forms and guidance documents

Forms and guidance documents

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Through its meetings since 2017, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury has adopted forms and guidance to assist Parties with its effective implementation. **These forms and guidance, as adopted, are presented below.**

Article	Adopted	Title	File	Further Information
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UNEP in collaboration with the Minamata Secretariat and Global Mercury Partnership developed a complementary technical document (COP.4/INF/6).



UNEP/MC/COP.4/INF/6

Annex

UN environment programme | 50 1972-2022

SOUND TAILINGS MANAGEMENT IN ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING

Technical Document



Item 4(c): Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining

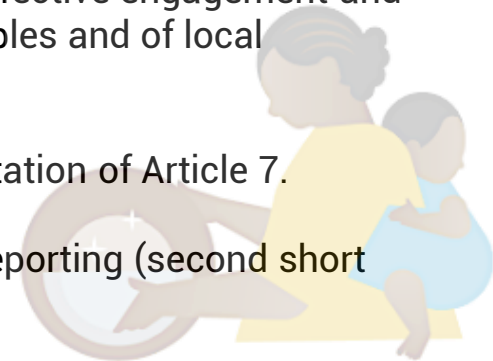


Item 4(c): Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

- ❖ 6/7: Matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to decision MC-5/7 on artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- ❖ 6/7/Add.1: Draft sections on the review of the implementation of article 7 for inclusion in the ASGM NAP guidance
- ❖ INF/11: Draft provisional guide on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities

6/7: Matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to decision MC-5/7 on artisanal and small-scale gold mining

- The document details the implementation status of the mandates established in Decision MC-5/7:
 - A. Progress made with respect to the implementation of **Article 7**:
 - Notifications;
 - Submissions of national action plans (NAPs);
 - Reviews of the implementation of Article 7.
 - B. Effective **engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders**:
 - Draft provisional guide on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities (INF/11).
 - C. **Further efforts** to advance implementation of Article 7.
 - D. **Identified challenges** from national reporting (second short national report).



Status of Article 7 Notifications and NAP Submissions

Party Notifications under Article 7.3:

ASGM using mercury in their territory is more than insignificant



51 Parties have notified the Secretariat under Article 7.3

6 non-parties have also notified under Article 7.3

Party Notifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website



For Parties, the date of notification triggers the **deadline** for submitting the NAP to the Secretariat: 3 years after notification

Or, if notifications sent prior to the country becoming a party: deadline is 3 years after entry into force for the party

Notifications are posted on the website under the "Parties" tab

Status of Article 7 Notifications and NAP Submissions

Develop and implement a national action plan in accordance with Annex C

Submit national action plan to the Secretariat



48 NAPs have been funded by the GEF

36 Parties have submitted their NAPs to the Secretariat

2 non-parties have submitted their NAPs

The NAPs are published on the Convention website



10 Parties who have notified the Secretariat have not submitted their NAPs by the deadline

Some of these are completed and being implemented, but have faced delays in being formally submitted

Article 7 Implementation Review

Provide a review every three years of the progress made in implementing Article 7
Include reviews in Article 21 national reports



Of the 36 Parties that have submitted their NAPs to the Secretariat, 22 are to be undertaking their reviews of progress made in implementing Article 7 as of 2025

Encouraged to be **submitted with their report pursuant to Art. 21** (current reporting cycle: second full national report) **due by 31 December 2025**



Deadline for providing the reviews:
3 years after submitting the NAP

NOTE:

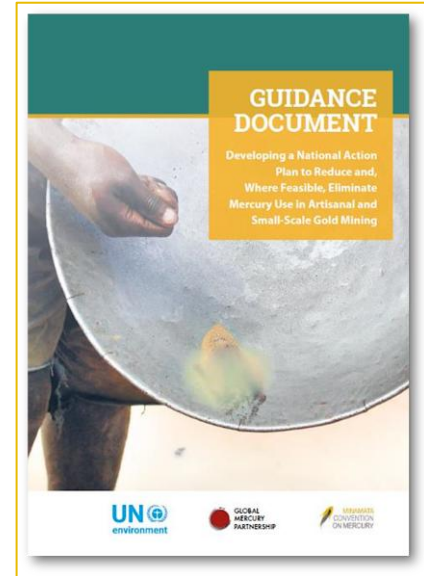
0 = 1st Short Reporting Cycle (2017 – 2018)
4 = 1st Full Reporting Cycle (2017 – 2020)
22 are due = 2nd Full Reporting Cycle (2021 – 2024)

Item 4(c): Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (cont.)

- ❖ 6/7: Matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to decision MC-5/7 on artisanal and small-scale gold mining
- ❖ 6/7/Add.1: Draft sections on the review of the implementation of article 7 for inclusion in the ASGM NAP guidance
- ❖ INF/11: Draft provisional guide on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities

6/7/Add.1: Draft sections on the review of the implementation of article 7 for inclusion in the ASGM NAP guidance

- Document contains **proposed amendments** to the ASGM NAP guidance, including new sections to support Parties in reviewing implementation of Article 7 and draft template for reporting results of the review of Article 7.
- Aim of proposed sections:
 - **facilitate reviews and support** national focal points to **organize information** on the results of the review
 - **facilitate reporting** under Article 21.
- Developed in collaboration with the **Global Mercury Partnership** and ASGM Partnership leads
- Review guidance is aimed for Parties who have submitted their NAPs to the Secretariat.
- For those Parties who have ASGM in their territory obligation to report on progress in the implementation of Art. 7 in the full national reports.



6/7/Add.1: Draft sections on the review of the implementation of article 7 for inclusion in the ASGM NAP guidance



Key Additions to NAP Guidance:

- ✓ New Section 4.7: Stepwise approach to conducting the review.
 - ❑ Check mandate of the coordinating mechanism and ensure multistakeholder participation
 - ❑ Collect & compare data: Against baseline mercury use and practices.
 - ❑ Monitor and assess progress - NAP objectives and targets.
 - ❑ Evaluate & adapt: Strategies, workplans, and stakeholder feedback.
 - ❑ Report findings: Using structured template aligned with Article 21.

- ✓ Review of the Implementation of Art. 7 (RIA) Reporting Template (Annex 7)
 - ❑ Status of NAP implementation
 - ❑ Progress on mandatory and optional strategies
 - ❑ Challenges, delays, and next steps
 - ❑ Encourages inclusion of disaggregated data for Indigenous Peoples, women and children, and gender-responsive indicators.

Section 2: Status of NAP Implementation. The table below provides a format for reporting on the status of the national objectives, targets and strategies set out in the NAP.

Annex C and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties	Targets / indicators	Original timeline	Adjusted timeline (if applicable)	Status of implementation	Progress / completion (percentage) ^a	Actions taken	Challenges/delays
Annex C (mandatory)							
a) <u>National objectives</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. revised timeline, additional resources allocated]	[e.g. delay due to funding issues]
b) <u>Reduction targets</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. revised timeline, additional resources allocated]	[e.g. delay due to funding issues]
c) <u>Actions to eliminate:</u>							
i. <u>Whole ore amalgamation</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. additional training sessions scheduled]	[e.g. technology adoption slower than expected]
ii. <u>Open burning of amalgam or processed amalgam</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. additional training sessions scheduled]	[e.g. technology adoption slower than expected]
iii. <u>Burning of amalgam in residential areas</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. additional training sessions scheduled]	[e.g. technology adoption slower than expected]
iv. <u>Cyanide leaching in sediment, ore or tailings to which mercury has been added without first removing the mercury</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. additional training sessions scheduled]	[e.g. technology adoption slower than expected]
d) <u>Steps to facilitate the formalization or regulation of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Completed / in progress / delayed]	[--]	[e.g. revised timeline, additional resources allocated]	[e.g. legislative delays]
e) <u>Revising estimates of the quantities</u>		[Date]	[Date]	[Original /	[--]		

Item 4(c): Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (cont.)

- ❖ 6/7: Matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to decision MC-5/7 on artisanal and small-scale gold mining
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INF/11: Draft provisional guide on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities

- Contains the draft **provisional guide on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities** in the development, implementation and review of ASGM national action plans. Financial **support from Australia and Norway**.
- In response to COP-5 decision MC-5/7 paragraph 7, the Secretariat developed the document.
- Based on a **desk review** of similar engagement protocols and its aim is to reflect the existing best practices for engagement of Indigenous Peoples and for engagement of local communities.
- Information was **posted on the Convention website** on 26 March 2025 until 30 April 2025 for inputs from Parties and other stakeholders.



Further efforts to advance implementation of Article 7: Key Developments



- ❑ Synergies with Biodiversity - NBSAPs
 - **Technical document** developed with The Nature Conservancy to integrate mercury reduction into biodiversity strategies (**UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/27**)
- ❑ **Specific International Programme** projects
 - Brazil: Focus on Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon; health awareness & safer mining.
 - Eritrea: Awareness campaigns to support NAP implementation.
- ❑ **GEF Contributions**
 - Regional mercury trade control project in LAC (prevented use of 176 tons of mercury).
 - Expansion of planetGOLD to 27 countries; 33.8 tons mercury emissions avoided; 12,400 miners supported.
 - \$284.8M allocated to forest biome programs aligned with Minamata Convention goals.

Further efforts to advance implementation of Article 7: Key Developments (cont.)



- ❑ In-situ mercury monitoring
 - Technical Guidance **in-situ mercury monitoring** document published and shared widely (UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/9).
- ❑ Trade Workshop
 - June 2024 event on mercury trade challenges; held in the Philippines, 27 parties participated; supported by European Union, the Philippine government, UNIDO and BAN Toxics

Identified challenges from national reporting (2nd short national report)

Reported Challenges – Part C of the national reports

- Illicit mercury trafficking
- Smuggling of mercury for ASGM use
- Trade of banned mercury-added products

Additional Concerns

- Mercury trade via e-commerce platforms
- Mercury from dental clinics diverted to ASGM

 More details: [UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/20](#)

Reporting Cycle – covers the period from 1 Jan 2021 – 31 Dec. 2022



Suggested action for the COP

The COP may wish to consider the **draft decision** contained in **annex I to document 6/7** and adopt a decision on artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

The COP may wish to:

- ❑ **Call on** Parties to submit their **final NAPs** as soon as possible;
- ❑ **Adopt** the **amendments on the review** of progress in the implementation of Article 7 (as presented in document 6/7/Add.1) to the NAP guidance document;
- ❑ Requests the secretariat to **incorporate the adopted amendments** into the guidance document and to cooperate with the Global Mercury Partnership in disseminating the amended guidance;
- ❑ **Call on** all Parties that have submitted their NAPs to **provide a review of the progress made** in meeting their obligations under Article 7 in their Article 21 national reports;



Suggested action for the COP



- ❑ **Invite** Parties to **make use of the provisional guide** on the effective engagement of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities (**INF/11**) in the development and implementation of their national action plans as well as their review of progress;
- ❑ **Request** the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Global Mercury Partnership, to **take stock and report to the COP** on:
 - a) Measures taken to implement the NAPs; and
 - b) Identified successful strategies and activities, achievements in implementation, and challenges and barriers encountered in reducing and eliminating the use, emissions and releases of mercury in ASGM, including information on formalizing or regulating ASGM as well as managing trade and preventing the diversion of mercury to use in ASGM.
- ❑ **Request** the Secretariat to report to **COP-7**.

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR REPORTING ON PROGRESS IN MEETING MINAMATA CONVENTION ARTICLE 7 OBLIGATIONS

- Aim :
 - Provide tools and a detailed framework to facilitate reviews and support Parties in undertaking RIA.
- Developed in collaboration between the **Minamata Convention Secretariat** and **Global Mercury Partnership** and ASGM Partnership leads
- Draft to be piloted and refined based on the countries experience with RIA process.

OUTLINE

- I. Conducting a review of the progress in meeting article 7 obligations



- II. ANNEX C Strategies
- III. Supplementary Strategies
- IV. Tools/templates

GEF Enabling Activity Project

Review of the implementation of Article 7 obligations on mercury in ASGM – RIA project

UNEP Lead IA – UNIDO co-lead IA

Two multi-country projects under development:

Country Budget Allocation: \$200,000

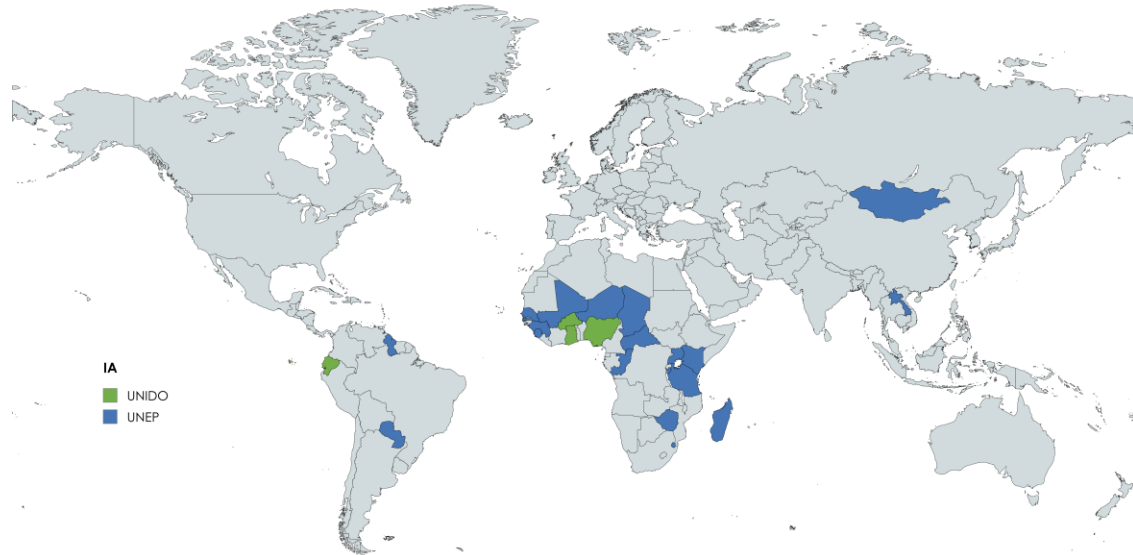
English Speaking

- 11 countries

French and Spanish Speaking

- 12 countries

Global Component Budget Allocation: \$500,000



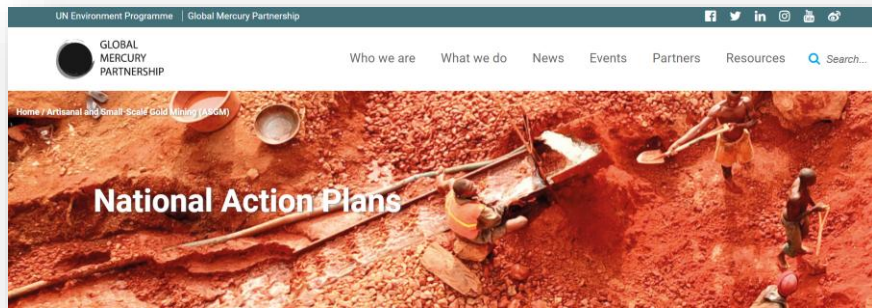
INTERACTIVE DASHBOARDS INSIGHTS FROM ASGM NAPS

<https://www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/insights-asgm-national-action-plans>

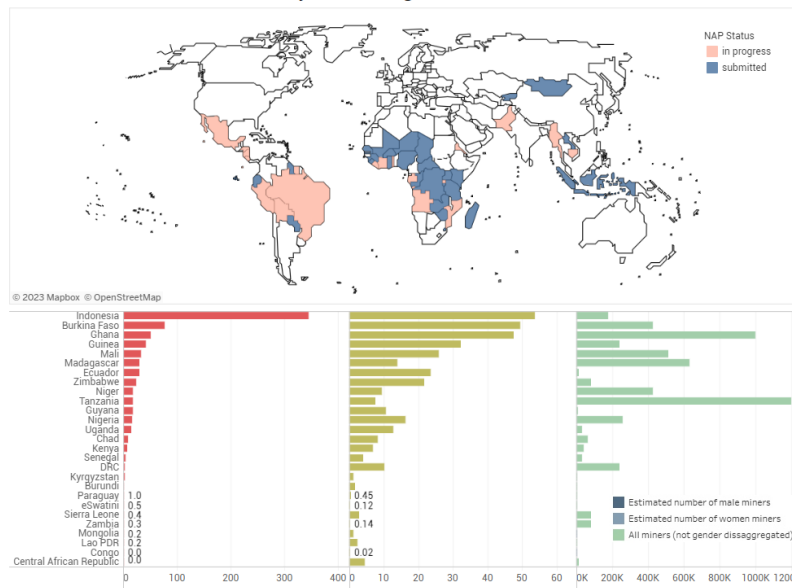
Full NAP database using the dynamic dashboards

Thematic stories through NAP data explained series

→ Planned integration with RIA process and data



ASGM National Action Plans - Key baseline figures





Q&A



Calendar until COP-6

July/August

7 Jul: Registration opens (invitations sent)

25 Jul: Deadline for application of online events, knowledge labs and exhibition booths

26-27 Aug: COP-6 Documents Briefing Sessions (online)

September

COP-6 Documents on the website

5 Sept: Deadline for registration of sponsored delegates

3-4 Sept: GRULAC regional meeting (Santiago, Chile)

9-10 Sept: Information sessions on supply sources and trade, and ASGM (online)

16-17 Sept: Eastern European States regional meeting (Geneva, Switzerland)

23-24 Sept: Asia-Pacific regional meeting (Bangkok, Thailand)

30 Sept: Info session on budget (online, for Parties only)

October/November

7-9 Oct: Africa regional meeting (**NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE: Nairobi, Kenya**)

13-17 Oct: pre-COP-6 Online Events Week

24 Oct: Deadline for registration (Non-sponsored delegates)

2 Nov: COP-6 Bureau meeting and regional meetings (Geneva)

COP-6

3-7 November
Geneva, CIGC



Minamata Online

MINAMATA ONLINE

TOWARDS COP-6

Join us again: registration is available at the Minamata Convention website.
<http://www.minamataconvention.org>

TUESDAY 26 AUGUST

13H00-14H30

Briefing sessions on COP-6 documents:
Day 1

WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST

13H00-14H30

Briefing sessions on COP-6 documents:
Day 2

TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

13H00-14H30

Mercury supply sources and trade (COP preparation)

WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

13H00-14H30

Information session on ASGM (COP preparation)

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

13H00-14H30

Programme of work and budget for 2026-2027 (Parties Only, COP Preparation)



*Tentative calendar. Geneva time.
Last update: 26 August 2025*

**SAVE THE DATE
AND REGISTER**



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[#MakeMercuryHistory](https://twitter.com/MakeMercuryHistory)

