

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

16 and 17 September 2025, Geneva, Switzerland

1. Overview

The Eastern European States regional preparatory meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, was attended by a total of 29 participants. Among these, 16 participants represented 14 Parties in the region. The remaining 13 participants represented UN bodies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Mercury Partnership, the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC), and the World Health Organization (WHO) participated in person. The Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP) participated online.

The meeting was held at the International Environment House in Geneva, Switzerland. Financial support for the organization of the meeting was generously provided by Switzerland.

The meeting was co-chaired by the COP-6 Bureau members from the Eastern European States region: Ms. Claudia-Sorina Dumitru (Romania) and Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia).

2. Proceedings

The meeting was opened with remarks from the Secretariat. 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), including the tentative schedule, credentials, and the status of registration and travel for sponsored delegates. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the relevant meeting documents for COP-6 were available on the Convention's website. This was followed by comprehensive briefings on matters for consideration or action by COP-6, covering all sub-items under agenda item 4, the programme of work and budget, and international cooperation.

During the discussion on COP-6 agenda item 4(I): Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a representative from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity provided an online update regarding collaboration with the Minamata Convention. On the first day of the meeting, Parties also had the opportunity to engage in regional

consultations in closed sessions to discuss the election of officers, the preparation of a regional statement, and other matters.

On the second day under the agenda item on international cooperation and coordination, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, GFC, and ISP-CWP provided updates. The WHO was also invited to provide an update. A discussion took place on these matters, including questions and clarifications.

A special pilot training session for Parties on the key institutions of the Minamata Convention, the mechanics of COP meetings, and negotiating effectively in a contact group was held, made possible through the financial support of Germany.

The meeting also covered logistical preparations for COP-6 and heard a presentation on the venue and dates for COP-7.

Under any other business, Montenegro introduced the Global Environment Facility funded project "Phasing out mercury measuring devices in healthcare." A number of Parties raised different concerns related to mercury waste in the region and a short follow-up consultation was organized immediately following the regional meeting with interested Parties, UNEP, the Minamata Secretariat to discuss potential approaches to build capacity on mercury waste management using available and verified technologies.

The Co-chairs and the Secretariat closed the meeting with brief concluding remarks.