

PRE #MINAMATACOP6 ONLINE EVENTS

**Bridging Generations to
#MakeMercuryHistory: New Tools and
Partnerships for a Child- and Youth-
Responsive Minamata Convention**

**Wednesday 15th October 2025
16h30 - 17h30 CEST**

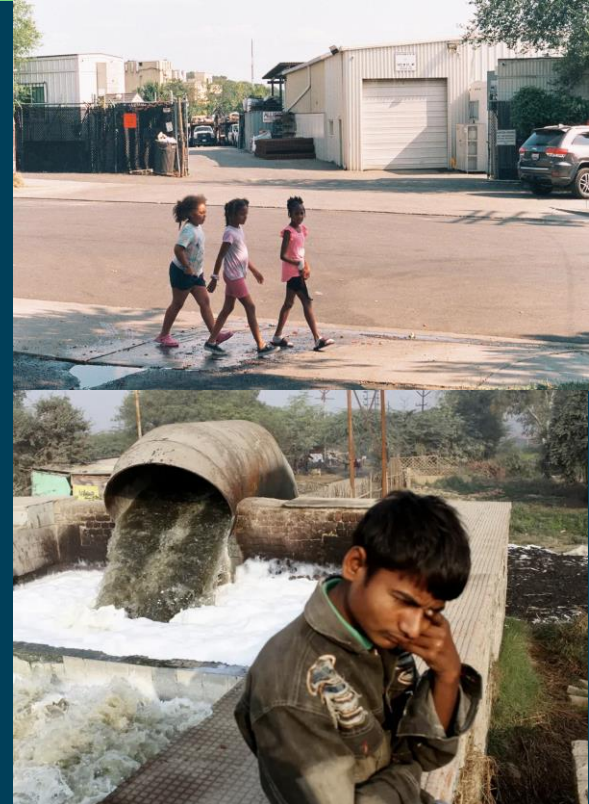
REGISTER | <https://bit.ly/15oct25d>

Time (in CEST)	Segment	Presenter
16:30 - 16:33 (3 min)	Welcome and session overview	Joshua Oluwaseyi (CWYP)
16:33 - 16:41 (8 min)	Introduction to Chemicals and Waste Youth Platform	Shannon Lisa (CWYP)
16:41 - 16:49 (8 min)	Introduction to Global Indigenous Youth Caucus	Alexyss McClellan-Ufugusuku (GIYC)
16:49 - 16:57 (8 min)	Updates from GEF-9 Replenishment (chemicals and waste pillar and youth engagement) / GEF support for Indigenous youth participation at COP-6	Tania Eulalia Martinez Cruz (GEF)
16:57 - 17:12 (15 min)	Launch of the Mercury Youth Task Force and youth programming for COP-6	Hemavathi Shekhar (Mercury Youth Task Force)
17:12 - 17:27 (15 min)	Youth testimonies / experiences with mercury pollution	Francis Boafo Asamoah (UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Youth Task Force) Naveen Gautam (CDWD Youth Constituency / The Inclusivity Project) Video: Grassy Narrows Youth Movement
17:27 - 17:30 (3 min)	Wrap-up and plan for part 2 of session	Joshua Oluwaseyi (CWYP)

Why is Chemicals & Waste Governance a Youth Priority?



- Children and youth experience **heightened and unique vulnerabilities** to hazardous chemicals and waste
- **Specific routes of exposure and health impacts** to children and adolescents have only been evaluated for a very small portion of chemicals
- Generations being born **pre-polluted**, building toxic chemical burden in bodies throughout life with more years to contend with the effects
- Transboundary and **transgenerational** issue



Impacts to Children and Youth Increasingly Recognized in Global Chemicals Policy



Global Framework on Chemicals



D. Groups in vulnerable situations

16. Exposure to chemicals and waste often disproportionately affects people in vulnerable situations, including children, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, women, workers, migrants, farmers, people living in poverty, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The implementation of the Framework should take these groups into consideration when protecting human health and the environment.

Target B7 – By 2030, stakeholders generate, to the extent possible, and make available comprehensive and accessible monitoring and surveillance data and information on concentrations and potential exposure sources of chemicals in humans (disaggregated by sex, age, region, other demographic factors, and other relevant health determinants as feasible), other biota and environmental media.

2. The Parties shall, where appropriate, cooperate directly or through global, regional and subregional organizations, and consult their national stakeholders, including women's groups and groups involved in the health of children, in order to facilitate the development, implementation and updating of their implementation plans.

(c) Development and implementation, especially for women, children and the least educated, of educational and public awareness programmes on persistent organic pollutants, as well as on their health and environmental effects and on their alternatives;

Child Health References in Minamata Convention Text and Amendments

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY²

Aware of the health concerns, especially in developing countries, resulting from exposure to mercury of vulnerable populations, especially women, **children**, and, through them, **future generations**,

MC-4/3: Review and amendment of annexes A and B to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

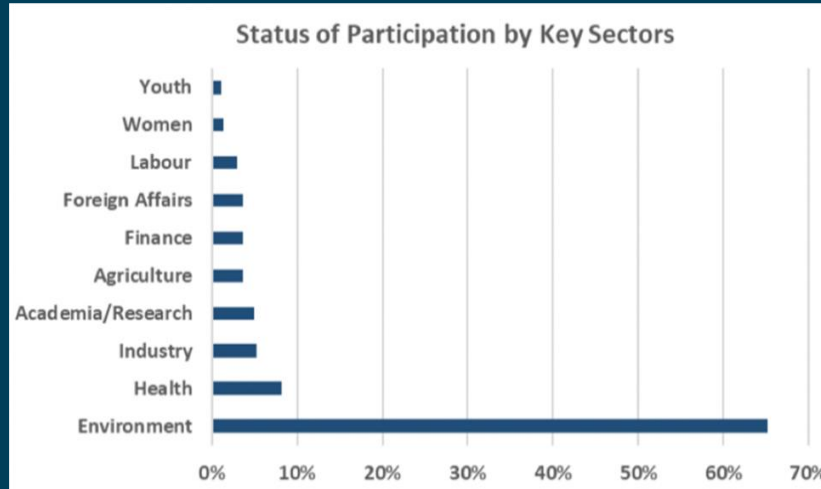
- (ii) Exclude or not allow, by taking measures as appropriate, or recommend against the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of **patients under 15 years** and of pregnant and breastfeeding women, **except** when considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient.

Annex C

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

- (i) Strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, **particularly children** and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining;

Youth: Missing Piece to Effective Chemicals & Waste Policy



SAICM, 2020. *Promoting multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral participation – summary of known obstacles and possible incentives.*

- The chemicals and waste conventions recognize that **children and youth are significantly vulnerable** to chemicals and waste and aim to protect youth
- However, **children and youth are not often included** in the development of global policy/ activities to address these problems



Youth Engagement in Other MEAs / Frameworks - 1

Conf. 17.5 (Rev. CoP18)*

Youth engagement

NOTING that the United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 as youth without prejudice to other definitions by Member States;

ACKNOWLEDGING that today's youth will one day be in decision-making positions and that CITES Parties must engage these people now to equip them to be stronger leaders in the future;

RECOGNIZING that by welcoming today's youth into species conservation and wildlife trade conversations, our decision makers will add a rich diversity of ideas and solutions;

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AT ITS ELEVENTH MEETING

XI/8. *Engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities*

B. *Children and youth*

The Conference of the Parties,

Acknowledging the importance of youth participation in decision-making processes at all levels,

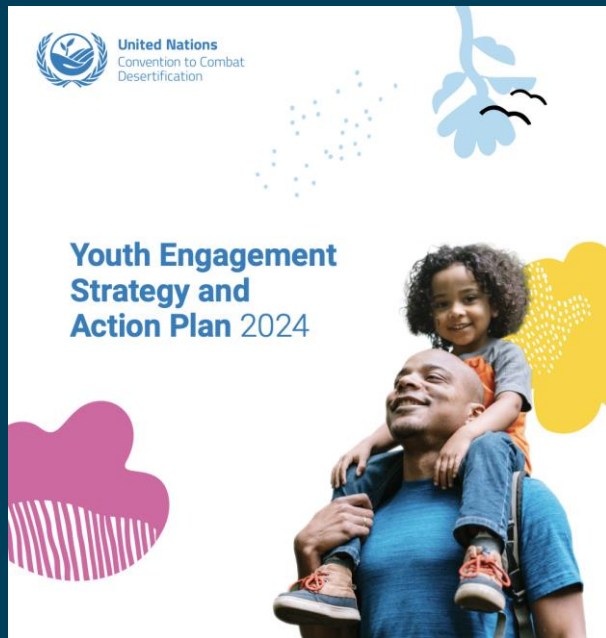
1. *Encourages* Parties and other governments to include youth fully in all relevant processes, and specifically in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as activities under the United Nations Decade for Biodiversity; and

2. *Invites* Parties to continue to provide support for youth initiatives and other networks that support the three objectives of the Convention, such as the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, the Young Naturalist Network, the "GO4BIODIV".

COP14  2022

Resolution XIV.12

Strengthening Ramsar connections through youth

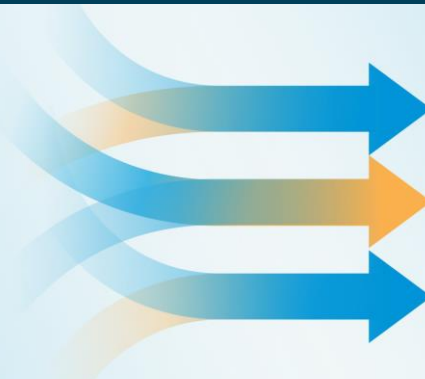


Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action

A pledge by champion governments to uphold priorities identified by children and youth across the world.

In 2019, at the 25th Conference of the Parties (COP25) in Madrid, a group of world leaders joined youth activists in a historic moment – to sign an Intergovernmental Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action. This is the first-of-its-kind commitment to accelerate inclusive, child and youth-centered climate policies and action at national and global levels.

**PACT
FOR THE
FUTURE**



Chapter IV: Youth and future generations

ACTION 34. We will invest in the social and economic development of children and young people so that they can reach their full potential.

ACTION 35. We will promote, protect and respect the human rights of all young people and foster social inclusion and integration.

ACTION 36. We will strengthen meaningful youth participation at the national level.

ACTION 37. We will strengthen meaningful youth participation at the international level.

The Chemicals & Waste Youth Platform

World's largest network of youth, children, and youth-led organizations focused on policy development and action on hazardous chemicals, waste and pollution.



Operationalized:
February 2021



Membership:
Universal in nature, 3000+ youth organizations and individuals



Goal:

(1) Build long-term, meaningful youth engagement in the work of the UN chemicals, waste and pollution pillar, (2) improve coordination across youth NGOs accredited to BRS, GFC and Minamata



Membership and Decision-Making

Constituency: organized body of people / organizations with shared identities or interests (like youth) that come together to represent their voices and organize engagement in UN process(es)

Open, Universal Membership

Any interested young person can join,
up to age 35

2.6k+

Individual child and youth members

400+

Youth-led and youth-serving member organizations

Decisions Taken by Assembly

Policy positions, selecting
speakers/applicants for funding,
electing focal points

150+

Countries represented in CWYP's membership

115

Youth that have received travel grants to engage in UN negotiations

Topic	Name of Constituency	Year Formed	Primary Meeting/Calendar	Primary UN Focal Point
Biodiversity	Global Youth Biodiversity Network	2010	UNCBD COP	UNEP, UNCBD
Chemicals, Waste and Pollution	Chemicals and Waste Youth Platform	2021	BRS COPs, Minamata COP, ICCM	UNEP, BRS, Minamata, SAICM/Global Framework on Chemicals
Climate Change	YOUNGO - Youth NGOs in UNFCCC	2009	UNFCCC COP	UNFCCC
Desertification and Land	UNCCD Youth Caucus / Global Youth Caucus on Desertification and Land	2019	UNCCD COP	UNCCD
Environmental Governance	Children and Youth Major Group to UNEA / Global Youth for Environment	2012	UNEA, CPR, ASC	UNEP
Forests	UNFF Major Group for Children and Youth	2018	UN Forests Forum	UNFF
Oceans	Oceans Youth Constituency	2021	UNOC	UNDESA
Sustainable Consumption and Production	SCP Youth Constituency	2012	SCP Review - HLPF, OPN Forum	UNEP, OPN

Landscape of Youth Environment Constituencies in UN System



Mobilizing Children and Youth Voices in UN Chemicals and Waste Pillar (GFC and BRS)

Proposal for Youth Engagement Text in COP-6

Recognize youth as critical stakeholders and partners in the work of the Minamata Convention.

Request the Secretariat to develop, in consultation with youth, a proposal for a **Children and Youth Engagement and Action Plan** to mainstream youth engagement in the Convention.

Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the Parties: cross-cutting matters: implementation of decision MC-5/15

Activities to address health concerns of women and children in the biennium 2026–2027

GIYC preparatory meeting before UNPFII 2025





A space created by and for Indigenous youth delegates to United Nations meetings

Meet in person daily during the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Organize throughout the year to be in collaboration with Indigenous youth around the world

Minamata COP6 is coming on the heels of several important UN guidelines on Indigenous peoples:

- General Assembly Resolution on the Enhanced Participation of Indigenous Peoples (2024)
- CEDAW General Recommendation 39 on the rights of Indigenous women and girls (2022)
- Special Rapporteur Albert Barume's Report on Indigenous peoples (August 2025)

The participation of Indigenous youth in Minamata COP is fundamental to seeking effective solutions, mitigating future harms, and respecting the sovereignty and dignity of Indigenous peoples globally.

Involving Indigenous youth in high-level decision making also begins to lay the groundwork for achieving Free Prior and Informed Consent where Indigenous peoples are involved, which is a foundational tenet of the UNDRIP.

Indigenous youth are being adversely affected by mercury issues such as skin lightening products, artisanal gold mining, and unsafe dental amalgam, but we are also subject to mercury pollution and poisoning that is sometimes inflicted upon us by member states.

Indigenous youth approach the challenges of Mercury contamination through our responsibility to future generations and our rights as Indigenous peoples, especially the respect of our right to Self-Determination (UNDRIP Article 3).

bit.ly/mercury-youth-activities

COP-6 YOUTH ACTIVITIES

CWYP, GIYC and the Mercury Youth Task Force

15 OCTOBER 2025

PRE #MINAMATACOP6 ONLINE EVENT



Chemicals & Waste
Youth Platform



Launch of the Mercury Youth Task Force (July 2025)

- Over 70 youth constituencies, youth-led organizations and individuals
- ~75% of current Task Force members from Global South countries
- Co-led by CWYP and GIYC



Youth Engaged Throughout COP-6 Regional Preparatory Meetings



GRULAC 3-4 September | Santiago



Europe 16-17 September | Geneva



Asia-Pacific 23-24 September | Bangkok



Africa 7-9 October | Nairobi

Youth Consultation Series / Development of 1st Global Youth Declaration on Mercury

- 10 regional + identity-based (CDWD and Indigenous Peoples) youth workshops planned / underway in lead-up to COP-6 in collaboration with regional youth organizations
- Intergenerational dialogue between youth, UN, member states and key civil society/academia networks
- Schedule / recordings: bit.ly/mercury-youth-activities

EVENTO EN LÍNEA

Juventud de América Latina y el Caribe

Taller Juvenil de la COP-6 del Convenio de Minamata + Consulta sobre la Declaración Global de la Juventud sobre el Mercurio

 **Martes, 14 Octubre 2025**

 **14:00 - 16:30 Hora de Panamá**

bit.ly/COP6YouthLAC




Latin America and Caribbean Youth Consultation / Workshop – 14 October 2025

 Judy Aguilar	 Esquire Henry	 Martin Checa	 Sharona Lieuw On
 Claudia Vega	 Matheus Felipe Gonçalves de So...	 Daniel Wegmann	 Gonzalo Macuna
 Arianna Beeray	 Gabriel Melo	 Carlos Gabriel Moreira da Paz	 ALEJANDRA LAFUENTE LUIZAGA

ONLINE EVENT

Africa Youth

Minamata COP-6 Youth Workshop + Consultation on the Global Youth Declaration on Mercury

 **Friday, 24 October 2025**

 **15:00 - 17:30 (GMT+3)**

bit.ly/COP6YouthAfrica




Youth Forum on Mercury Pollution + Presentation of Youth Declaration

Date	Sunday, 2 nd November 2025
Time	10:00 – 18:00 CEST
Venue	CICG Room B (am) / Room 1 (pm) + Hybrid

High-level morning sessions to include:

- 3 thematic roundtables focused on mercury pollution issues of concern to children and youth
- Global Youth Dialogue (collaboration with Ministry of Environment, Japan) + formal presentation of Global Youth Declaration

Afternoon youth workshops to include:

- Networking space
- Youth intervention drafting sessions
- Negotiation training / prep

Announcing the **FIRST YOUTH FORUM ON MERCURY POLLUTION**

a special event of Minamata Convention COP-6



02 November 2025

bit.ly/2025_mercuryYF



Exhibition Booth:

Our Future, Mercury-Free: Youth Action for the Minamata Convention

A space for children and youth to gather and share their work at COP-6

- **Youth “Mercury Pollution Solutions” map** - showcasing youth-led projects and stories from around the world addressing mercury pollution, hazardous child labor, toxic cosmetics and more
- **Youth testimony video wall** - rotating display of pre-recorded, first-person messages from youth around the world, sharing lived experiences with mercury pollution, what is at stake for their communities, and a direct call to COP-6 decision-makers

Submit youth case studies / stories



Learn more about youth
engagement in Minamata +
connect with us

MERCURY YOUTH TASK FORCE



**Chemicals & Waste
Youth Platform**

Email: chemicals.admin@unmgcy.org
Social Media: [@chemwasteyouth](#)
Website (coming soon!): chemwasteyouth.org

Email: minamata-youthtf@unmgcy.org
Trello Board: bit.ly/mercury-youth-activities



Email: amcclell@ucsc.edu
Social Media: [@globalindigenouyouthcaucus](#)
Website: globalindigenouyouthcaucus.org



**PART 2 OF THIS
SESSION:**



29 OCTOBER

