

Report of the Africa regional preparatory meeting for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

7 to 9 October 2025, Nairobi, Kenya

1. Overview

The Africa regional preparatory meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, was attended by a total of 158 participants. Among these, 97 participants represented 40 Parties in the region. The remaining 61 participants represented one non-party, the Minamata Convention Secretariat, UN bodies and NGOs. A representative from the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA) participated in person. The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions, Global Framework in Chemicals (GFC), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (ISP-CWP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) participated online. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity made a recorded presentation.

The meeting was held at the United Nations Gigiri Complex, in Nairobi, Kenya. 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 Africa region: Sidi Ould Aloueimine (Mauritania) and Mohamed Abdulai Kamara (Sierra Leone).

2. Proceedings

The meeting was opened by the co-chairs, followed by opening remarks from the Secretariat and welcoming remarks by ROA. 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, the status of registration and travel for sponsored delegates, and logistical preparation for COP-6. The Secretariat informed 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.

On the second day during the discussion on COP-6 agenda item 4(1): Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a representative from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity provided recorded presentation regarding collaboration with the Minamata Convention.

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.

Training sessions to enhance capacity of delegates to effectively prepare for and participate in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties were offered to the delegates from Parties during the regional

meeting. The training sessions have been prepared by the Secretariat thanks to the generous financial support provided by Germany

On the second and third day of the meeting, Parties also had the opportunity to engage in regional consultations in a closed session to discuss the election of officers and the preparation of a regional positions and statement for COP-6. Representatives of youth group delivered statements at the end of the meeting. Other participants submitted statements to the Secretariat, which were forwarded to the participants.

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