

Ref: MC/ES/2026/36

Geneva, 22 May 2026

Subject: Invitation to Parties and stakeholders to submit information on challenges in implementing the obligations regarding mercury-added cosmetics

Dear Madam/Sir,

Further to my letter [MC/COP6/2026/1](#) dated 9 February to follow up on the decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its 6th meeting, in which I invited the submission of information on challenges in implementing the obligations regarding mercury-added cosmetics pursuant to decision [MC-6/4](#) of the Conference of the Parties by 30 June 2026, I am providing some background information that may be helpful in your consideration of submissions.

In decision MC-6/4, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties without national legislation or other measures, or otherwise facing challenges in implementing their obligations regarding mercury-added cosmetics, to inform the Secretariat and to consider the application of Article 14 and/or Article 15 to their situation.

With regard to national legislation or other measures, the World Health Organization (WHO) has offered to the Secretariat the information on regulatory approaches to mercury-added cosmetics from its survey undertaken as part of the GEF project #10810 "Eliminating mercury skin lightening products". WHO is verifying the information with the health ministries of the member states before making the data publicly available as part of the [Global Health Observatory](#). The Secretariat will send individual emails to the national focal points on that information so that they can cooperate with the health ministries in the verification of the information. This information may be helpful in considering the application of Article 14 or 15 of the Convention.

Article 14 of the Convention provides for capacity-building and technical assistance to developing country Parties and Parties that are countries with economies in transition, which may be delivered through regional, subregional and national arrangements, including existing regional and subregional centres, through other multilateral or bilateral means, and partnerships through those involving the private sector. The Conference of the Parties is to make recommendations on how capacity -building, technical assistance and technology transfer could be further enhanced.

Article 15 of the Convention provides for the establishment of the [Implementation and Compliance Committee](#), which may consider issues on promoting implementation and reviewing compliance, on the basis of written submissions from any Party with respect to its own compliance, national reports or requests from the Conference of the Parties. The Committee is to examine issues on the basis of submissions and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties. The Committee plans to have its 8th meeting (online) from 7 to 8 September 2026 and its 9th meeting (face to face) from 26 to 28 January 2027. As per COP decision MC-3/9, Parties may make submissions on their own compliance for the consideration of the Committee using the template included in that decision no later than 8 weeks before the opening of the meetings. Submissions shall reach the Secretariat, by **13 July 2026** to be considered at the 8th meeting, and by **1 December 2026** to be considered the 9th meeting of the Committee.

As requested in decision MC-6/4, the Secretariat will compile and synthesize information submitted by Parties. In addition to the information submitted pursuant to decision MC-6/4, the Secretariat will take into account existing information including the following:



- National reports pursuant to Article 21, being posted on <https://minamataconvention.org/en/parties/reporting/2025>
- Submissions for the intersessional work for COP-6 pursuant to decision [MC-5/5](#), available from <https://owncloud.unog.ch/s/NOq861kP4jB8c6J>
- WHO database of regulatory approaches explained above
- Information from relevant meetings, including the GEF Project Stakeholders Group meeting to be held online on 15 June 2026 (See www.unep.org/mercuryfreecosmetics for details).

Parties and stakeholders wishing to submit information related to the challenges in preventing the manufacture, import and export of mercury-added cosmetics, including enforcement challenges are kindly invited to do so by communicating to the Secretariat by email at mea-minamatasecretariat@un.org, with copies to eisaku.toda@un.org, by **30 June 2026**. Please note that the information already listed above does not need to be re-submitted, unless there are any recent updates.

I look forward to our continued cooperation and your active participation and contribution during the intersessional period.

Sincerely,

Monika Stankiewicz,
Executive Secretary

To: National Focal Points to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
Observers to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties

Cc: Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva
Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme