



REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT

COP 17 - importance of chemicals and waste, how it impacts biodiversity and the need for global commitment and action

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COP17 from 19 - 30 October 2026

Currently observed climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss have led to a "triple crisis" with rapidly unfolding consequences for our lives, threatening ecosystems, human health and well-being for generations.



Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the link to chemicals and waste

- ▶ Adopted in December 2022, the GBF calls for urgent action to halt biodiversity loss and sustainably manage ecosystems.
- ▶ Toxic chemicals pollute habitats worldwide, threatening the survival of hundreds of species. For example:
 - ▶ Despite a global ban, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) continue to pollute oceans, critically impacting marine animals such as striped dolphins and killer whales.
- ▶ Among the 23 GBF targets, 19 rely in some way on the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste, highlighting opportunities for synergies between the KMGBF and the chemicals and waste efforts
- ▶ **The Global Chemicals Framework** commitment to responsible chemicals management directly addresses these threats, providing a pathway to:
 - ▶ Reducing pollution, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and protecting biodiversity.
 - ▶ Supporting linkages between the BRS and Minamata Conventions and the KMGBF, and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Nature Protection in the Republic of Armenia

- ▶ Main direction of the state policy in the area of nature protection is to ensure sound management of chemicals and waste in order to prevent their hazardous effects on the environment and human health.
- ▶ Issues related to environmental protection and human health are included in all strategic documents of the country.
- ▶ A number of normative legal acts adopted to implement obligations under Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, with the aim of environmentally sound management and prevention of chemicals and wastes illegal traffic.

Armenia's obligations under the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions

- ▶ Regulation of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), which are toxic and resistant to degradation, characterized by bioaccumulation are subject to transboundary transport by air, water and migratory species, and accumulate in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- ▶ The National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the **Stockholm Convention** is currently being updated to take into account new POPs regulated by the Convention.
- ▶ In the frame of the **Stockholm Convention**, a list of prohibited POPs is approved and activities undertaken for inventory of PCBs, PCB-containing oils and equipment, PCB-containing waste, as well as verification of quantities of PCBs with the aim of their elimination.
- ▶ In pursuance of the **Rotterdam Convention**, the List of banned chemicals and pesticides regulated by the Rotterdam Convention was approved and is periodically updated.

Armenia's obligations under the Minamata Convention

- ▶ Law «On Mercury» and by-laws banning the use of mercury-containing products and their phasing-out from circulation.
- ▶ Currently received from the IAEA equipment for determination of metallic and methyl mercury in environmental media.
- ▶ Mercury is one of the highly hazardous chemicals mentioned in KMGBF Target 7, and its trend in the environment can be a direct indicator for that goal.

COP17 is an opportunity to assess collective progress, strengthen cooperation, and accelerate action toward achieving the global biodiversity goals by 2030

- ▶ To support informed decision-making, it is necessary to strengthen research, as well as collection of evidence on direct and indirect impacts of the triple environmental crisis towards the human health.
- ▶ The Global Framework on Chemicals is critical to achieving global biodiversity protection goals, serves as a blueprint for achieving a planet free from the impact of harmful chemicals.
- ▶ Important for the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm (BRS) and Minamata Conventions to be aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) to aim towards common goals for the planet.



Thank you!

We look forward to welcoming you in Yerevan.

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