



**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Fifth meeting**
Geneva, 30 October–3 November 2023

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury at its fifth meeting

MC-5/1: The effects of mercury pollution on Indigenous Peoples and on local communities

The Conference of the Parties,

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of June 1992, as well as General Assembly resolution 70/1 of September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/54/12 on human rights and Indigenous Peoples,

Recalling also World Health Assembly resolution WHA76.16 of May 2023 entitled “The health of Indigenous Peoples”,

Recalling further decision MC-4/4, which calls on parties to engage Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of national action plans pertaining to article 7 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

Noting with concern that Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, are particularly vulnerable to mercury exposure and are among the first to face the serious health and environmental effects resulting from mercury pollution owing to their close relationship with the environment and its resources, and welcoming the role of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, and particularly the engagement of women and girls, who have faced the effects of mercury with resilience, in achieving the objective of the Minamata Convention and the targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that respect for Indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment,

1. *Notes* the importance of broadening participation of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, in the implementation of projects and programmes undertaken under the Minamata Convention;
2. *Encourages* parties to support, as appropriate, participation of Indigenous Peoples’ organizations, as well as local communities and other relevant stakeholders, in meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and in other related processes;
3. *Encourages* parties and other relevant stakeholders to promote policies that enable Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, to benefit from, as well as contribute to, the dissemination of information, awareness and education on emissions and releases of mercury, including through the Indigenous Peoples Platform of the Minamata Convention;

4. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to compile views, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on the needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, with regard to the effects of mercury on their health, livelihoods, culture and knowledge, with a view to future work on identifying possible solutions.
