



**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-5/6: Information on the economic and technical feasibility of mercury-free catalysts in vinyl chloride monomer production

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the obligation, set out in paragraph 3 of article 5 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, for each party to take measures to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in part II of annex B, which, in the case of vinyl chloride monomer production, includes reporting to the Conference of the Parties on a party's efforts to develop and/or identify alternatives and phase out mercury use in accordance with article 21,

Recalling also the obligation, set out in subparagraph 5 (c) of article 5 of the Convention, for each relevant party to endeavour to identify facilities within its territory that use mercury or mercury compounds for processes listed in annex B, which include vinyl chloride monomer production, and submit to the secretariat information on the number and types of such facilities and the estimated annual amount of mercury compounds used in those facilities,

Recalling further that information provided by parties regarding processes that use mercury or mercury compounds and their alternatives, as well as other relevant information, shall be made publicly available by the secretariat in accordance with paragraph 4 of article 5 of the Convention,

Recalling that, under paragraph 8 of article 5 of the Convention, parties are encouraged to exchange information on economically and technically feasible mercury-free alternatives in relation to the manufacturing processes listed in annex B; that under subparagraph 1 (c) (ii) of article 17 of the Convention, each party shall facilitate the exchange of information on technically and economically viable alternatives to manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used; and that under paragraph 3 of article 17, the secretariat shall facilitate cooperation in the exchange of such information, as well as with relevant organizations, including the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and other international initiatives, and that such information shall also include information from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with expertise in the area of mercury, and from national and international institutions with such expertise,

1. *Invites* parties and relevant organizations to submit, by 31 March 2025, on a voluntary basis, information to the secretariat on technically and economically feasible alternatives to the use of mercury and mercury compounds in vinyl chloride monomer production, in accordance with paragraph 8 of article 5 and paragraph 1 of article 17 of the Convention;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on the technical and economic feasibility of mercury-free catalysts used to produce vinyl chloride monomer, including information on experiences in transitioning to mercury-free catalysts, drawing on:

- (a) Reporting and information submitted by parties under article 5 of the Convention;
 - (b) Information provided under article 17 of the Convention by parties and by relevant organizations, including the vinyl chloride monomer industry, mercury-free catalyst suppliers for vinyl chloride monomer production, and other relevant stakeholders.
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