



---

**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-5/7: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the critical importance of full implementation of article 7 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, on artisanal and small-scale gold mining, to achieving the objective of the Convention and to contributing to the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,

*Recalling* 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,

*Recognizing* that national action plans on artisanal and small-scale gold mining are central to the achievement of obligations under article 7, and also recognizing the efforts by many parties to develop and submit such plans,

1. *Calls on* all parties that have notified the secretariat pursuant to paragraph 3 of article 7, and in particular those parties that have received support from the Global Environment Facility to develop their national action plans but have not yet submitted their plans, to submit the final plans to the secretariat as soon as possible, taking into consideration the deadline set out in paragraph 3 (b) of article 7;

2. *Calls on* all parties that have submitted their national action plans to provide a review of the progress made in meeting obligations under article 7 and include the review in their reports to be submitted pursuant to article 21, as set out in paragraph 3 (c) of article 7;

3. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to include support to parties undertaking their first such reviews as part of the Facility's enabling activity support available to parties, and, within that activity, to support the development and piloting of review guidance, supplementing the information in the guidance document on developing a national action plan to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining,<sup>1</sup> and of an online tool for parties to use when undertaking their reviews;

4. *Calls on* parties and the Global Environment Facility to make further efforts to seek opportunities to advance implementation of article 7 in the context of projects relating to biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, and trade, and to continue to advance implementation of national action plans through projects and programmes;

---

<sup>1</sup> "Guidance Document: Developing a National Action Plan to Reduce and, Where Feasible, Eliminate Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining" as adopted in decision MC-4/4 and updated in document UNEP/MC/COP.4/29.

5. *Welcomes* the technical document on mercury monitoring in and around artisanal and small-scale gold mining sites<sup>2</sup> and requests the secretariat to ensure that the document is readily available to all parties;

6. *Encourages* parties and other relevant stakeholders to:

(a) Engage with Indigenous Peoples and local communities in decision-making processes regarding artisanal and small-scale gold mining;

(b) Protect and strengthen traditional livelihoods and cultural practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and, where appropriate, develop and promote alternative, sustainable economic activities;

(c) Improve multilateral cooperative efforts to enforce national laws pertaining to the international trade of mercury;

(d) Promote appropriate health-care services for prevention, treatment and care for Indigenous Peoples and local communities affected by exposure to mercury from artisanal and small-scale gold mining;

7. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to prepare a supplemental section of the guidance document on developing a national action plan to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of national action plans;

8. *Encourages* parties to work with their respective Indigenous Peoples and local communities with regard to their needs and priorities in relation to the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and requests the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to support parties' efforts to raise awareness among Indigenous Peoples and local communities of the risks associated with mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to provide an update to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting on the progress made with respect to notifications, submissions and reviews pursuant to article 7, and to provide the supplemental guidance sections referred to in paragraphs 3 and 7 above for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

---

<sup>2</sup> As contained in document UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/9.