



MINAMATA
CONVENTION
ON MERCURY

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**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Sixth meeting**

Geneva, 3–7 November 2025

Item (j) (ii) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference
of the Parties: cross-cutting matters: implementation of
decision MC-5/15**

**Status of implementation of decision MC-5/15 during the 2024–
2025 biennium****

Note by the secretariat

As is mentioned in the note by the secretariat on “Activities to address health concerns of women and children in the 2026–2027 biennium” (UNEP/MC/COP.6/18), the annex to the present note sets out a review of activities undertaken by the secretariat and parties during the 2024–2025 biennium pursuant to decision MC-5/15. The list of activities to implement the gender action plan during the 2024–2025 biennium, as identified by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, is set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of annex I to document UNEP/MC/COP.5/18.

* UNEP/MC/COP.6/1/Rev.1.

** This document has not been formally edited.

Annex

Review of activities to implement decision MC-5/15 during the 2024–2025 biennium

Activities	Indicators of achievement	Means of verification	Funding source	Responsible actors	Review of activities undertaken
I. Activities to be carried out by the secretariat					
a) Review of national reports submitted by parties under article 21 to identify measures related to the control of mercury-added products used primarily by women and children, such as cosmetics and dental amalgam	Statistics are compiled and review is produced	Baseline report incorporating a review of national reports	Staff time	Secretariat	<i>Status: ongoing</i> The review of the second short national reports is available on Convention's website ¹ . <u>Next steps:</u> the secretariat will review relevant measures included in the second full national reports, which are due by 31 December 2025.
b) Analysis of strategies to prevent exposure of women and children to mercury in existing national action plans submitted by parties pursuant to subparagraph 3 (a) of article 7 to establish a baseline for future reviews of national action plans, in collaboration with the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Statistics are compiled and review is produced	Baseline report incorporating a review of national action plans	Funded by Finland	Secretariat, UNEP	<i>Status: ongoing</i> The analysis of national action plans submitted by parties as of June 2025 is available on the Convention's website ² . <u>Next steps:</u> the analysis is expected to be integrated in the technical information and tools: review of the implementation of article 7 obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury and related training package for parties to be delivered by the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility.

¹ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/topics/women-and-girls>

² <https://minamataconvention.org/en/topics/women-and-girls>

Activities	Indicators of achievement	Means of verification	Funding source	Responsible actors	Review of activities undertaken
c) Development of case studies of projects addressing health concerns of women and children funded by the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance	Statistics are compiled and case studies are produced	Convention's website	Funded by Finland	Secretariat	<i>Status: done</i> The secretariat has developed four case studies on projects addressing health concerns of women funded by the Specific International Programme. The case studies are available on the Convention's website ³ .
d) Continued inclusion of considerations of women's empowerment and participation in the process of appraising and evaluating projects under the Specific International Programme	Considerations integrated in the appraising and evaluation process	Application guidelines and guidelines for conducting projects' terminal reviews and evaluations	Staff time	Secretariat	<i>Status: ongoing</i> The application guidelines for the fourth round of the Specific International Programme included considerations of health concerns of women and children. The guidelines for conducting projects' terminal reviews and evaluations also include such considerations. More information is available on the Convention's website ⁴ .
(e) Delivery of training on integrating considerations of women's empowerment and participation in the development of project proposals in order to access funding under the financial mechanism of the Convention, in collaboration with the GEF secretariat	Webinars delivered	Convention's website	Staff time	Secretariat	<i>Status: done</i> Following the launch of the fourth round of applications to the Specific International Programme, the secretariat organized webinars for parties presenting information and suggestions from the application guidelines on how to integrate considerations of health concerns of women and children into project proposals. In 2024, the secretariat also organized a Minamata Online session ⁵ to showcase how such considerations are integrated by the Specific International Programme, the Global Environment Facility and the Special Programme into application criteria for funding, application guidelines, project applications, reporting forms and project evaluation processes.

³ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/topics/women-and-girls>

⁴ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/implementation/specific-international-programme/fourth-round>

⁵ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/resources/minamata-online-mainstreaming-gender-capacity-building-projects>

Activities	Indicators of achievement	Means of verification	Funding source	Responsible actors	Review of activities undertaken
f) Incorporation consideration of health concerns of women and children into existing training, such as training related to mercury-added products, training for negotiators and potential chairs of contact groups, and training in mercury wastes organized by the secretariat in cooperation with partners, such as the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and GEF	Session on the impacts of mercury exposure on women and children	Presentation and report of the training	Funded by Sweden	Secretariat, BRS secretariat	<i>Status: done</i> A session on the impacts of mercury exposure on women and children was delivered during the BRS training for co-chairs in February 2025.
g) Measurement of the meaningful participation of women in meetings of the Conference of the Parties, in Bureau meetings, in other official and expert meetings and in the processes and activities of the secretariat	Statistics are compiled	Nominations and registration of COP-5 participants; election of officers at COP-5; nomination of experts	Staff time	Secretariat	<i>Status: ongoing</i> Information on participation of women is available on Convention's website ⁶ . <u>Next steps:</u> the secretariat will continue measuring meaningful participation of women at the sixth and seventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties and other meetings.

⁶ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/topics/women-and-girls>

Activities	Indicators of achievement	Means of verification	Funding source	Responsible actors	Review of activities undertaken
h) Promotion of efforts to identify “champions” to support the secretariat in its endeavour to address health concerns of women and children into all activities to be undertaken by itself, by parties and by other stakeholders	Establishment of a Women’s Caucus of the Minamata Convention on Mercury	Convention’s website	Staff time	Secretariat	<p><i>Status: ongoing</i></p> <p>The secretariat supported the establishment of the Women’s Caucus of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. As of July 2025, more than 70 stakeholders became members of the Women’s Caucus of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. A webinar⁷ to identify needs and opportunities for engagement of women was organized in June 2025. More information is available on the Convention’s website⁸.</p> <p><u>Next steps:</u> the secretariat will support the coordination of the women’s caucus of the Minamata Convention.</p>
i) Sharing of parties’ surveys and requests for information to enable the secretariat to identify capacity-building needs and the interests of parties and other stakeholders with respect to mercury exposure of women and children.	Webinar delivered	Convention’s website	Staff time	Secretariat	<p><i>Status: ongoing</i></p> <p>On 10 March 2025, the secretariat organized a Minamata Online webinar⁹ to provide an overview of the activities undertaken by the secretariat to address health concerns of women and children and invite inputs to proposed priority activities to be carried out during the 2026–2027 biennium.</p> <p><u>Next steps:</u> the secretariat will continue collecting information from parties and other stakeholders on capacity-building needs and interests with respect to mercury exposure of women and children.</p>

⁷ <https://women4biodiversity.org/womens-caucus-for-the-minamata-convention-on-mercury/>

⁸ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/news/become-member-womens-caucus-minamata-convention-mercury>

⁹ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/resources/implementing-gender-action-plan-minamata-convention>

Activities	Indicators of achievement	Means of verification	Funding source	Responsible actors	Review of activities undertaken
II. Activities for parties and other stakeholders					
a) Provision of information on health concerns of women and children, as appropriate, in their national reports to be submitted pursuant to article 21 of the Convention	Number of concerns reported by parties	National reports	Staff time	Parties	<i>Status: ongoing</i> The review of the second short national reports is available on Convention's website ¹⁰ . <i>Next steps:</i> the secretariat will review relevant measures included in the second full national reports, which are due by 31 December 2025.
b) Integrate and monitor strategies to prevent exposure of women and children to mercury into the review of national action plans to be submitted in accordance with subparagraph 3 (c) of article 7 and subparagraph 1 (i) of annex C to the Convention	Number of strategies reported	National reports	Staff time	Parties, United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility.	<i>Status: ongoing</i> The analysis of national action plans submitted by parties as of June 2025 is available on the Convention's website ¹¹ <i>Next steps:</i> the analysis is expected to be integrated in the technical information and tools: review of the implementation of article 7 obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury and related training package for parties to be delivered by the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility.
c) Ensuring that data on the impacts of mercury exposure on women and children is included in the effectiveness evaluation process under article 22, in particular with respect to the monitoring of data on trends in the levels of mercury and mercury compounds observed in biotic media and vulnerable populations,	Data included in the reports to the Open-Ended Scientific Group	Reports of the Open-Ended Scientific Group	Staff time	Parties	<i>Status: ongoing</i> The Open-Ended Scientific Group reviewed data on the levels of mercury in vulnerable populations, disaggregated by gender, at its second meeting from 17 to 21 March 2025. More information is available on Convention's website ¹² .

¹⁰ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/topics/women-and-girls>

¹¹ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/topics/women-and-girls>

¹² <https://minamataconvention.org/en/intersessional-work-and-submissions-cop-6>

Activities	Indicators of achievement	Means of verification	Funding source	Responsible actors	Review of activities undertaken
in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 22					
d) Responding to surveys and requests for information to enable the secretariat to identify capacity-building needs and interests with respect to mercury exposure of women and children of parties and other stakeholders	Participation in webinar	Convention's website	Staff time	Parties and other stakeholders	<i>Status: ongoing</i> On 10 March 2025, the secretariat organized a Minamata Online webinar ¹³ to provide an overview of the activities undertaken by the secretariat to address health concerns of women and children and invite inputs to proposed priority activities to be carried out during the 2026–2027 biennium.
e) Inclusion of considerations of women's empowerment and participation in the terms of reference for the next review of the financial mechanism	Incorporation of performance criterion on women	Draft terms of reference for the third review of the financial mechanism	Staff time	Parties	<i>Status: ongoing</i> The draft terms of reference for the third review of the financial mechanism include, as a performance criterion to be taken into account in assessing the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, the extent to which the projects funded by the financial mechanism have benefited women and taken into account women's empowerment and participation.
f) Ensuring that there is balance in the representation of men and women in delegations to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and other Convention-related meetings.	Number of men and women in delegations	Lists of participants	Staff time	Parties	<i>Status: ongoing</i> Information on participation of men and women in delegations is available on Convention's website ¹⁴ .

¹³ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/resources/implementing-gender-action-plan-minamata-convention>

¹⁴ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/topics/women-and-girls>