



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

Geneva, 3–7 November 2025

Item 4 (k) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the
Conference of the Parties: knowledge management****Proposed Minamata Convention Exchange Platform******Note by the secretariat**

1. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) noted with appreciation a digital strategy (MC-5/16) for the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury as outlined in annex I to document UNEP/MC/COP.5/19. The digital strategy guides the work of the secretariat in leveraging technology and managing knowledge effectively to support the implementation of the Convention.
2. Paragraph 3 of article 17 states that the secretariat of the Minamata Convention is to facilitate cooperation in the exchange of information referred to in the article, as well as with relevant organizations, including the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other international initiatives, and that, in addition to information from parties, that information is to include information from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and from national and international institutions, with expertise in the area of mercury. Furthermore, paragraph 2 (d) of article 24 specifies that one of the functions of the secretariat is to assist parties in the exchange of information related to the implementation of the Convention.
3. The annex to the present note sets out a proposal for the Minamata Convention Exchange Platform. The proposed platform aims to serve as a shared digital space where parties and other stakeholders can access reliable information, exchange experiences, and collaborate on the implementation of the Convention. It will bring together scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, in a way that is accessible, multilingual, and structured around the Convention's priority areas. The platform will also support interactive engagement and cooperation by enabling discussions, working groups, and access to guidance and tools tailored to implementation needs.

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

** This document has not been formally edited.

Annex

Minamata Convention Exchange Platform

I. Background

1. In an increasingly interconnected world, the need for structured, reliable, and timely information exchange is critical to support effective multilateral environmental action. The implementation of the Minamata Convention Exchange Platform under the Minamata Convention responds to this need by enhancing cooperation and facilitating the exchange of scientific, technical, legal and policy-relevant information related to mercury. The United Nations Secretary-General underscored, in the “Our Common Agenda” report and in follow-up initiatives such as the Summit of the Future and the Global Digital Compact, that digital transformation and data sharing are essential enablers of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. As reported at COP-5 (UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/26) and COP-6 (UNEP/MC/COP.6/19), the secretariat has made substantial progress in advancing knowledge management and digitalization, including the launch of a redesigned website that now serves as the Convention’s main knowledge hub, the development of a dynamic online reporting tool, and the creation of data dashboards for national reporting and GEF projects. These tools provide a strong foundation for establishing an information exchange platform that can centralize, organize and disseminate information in support of implementation.

3. Recent national reports indicate that while Parties share numerous examples of good national practices, these are often confined to the reports themselves and not broadly disseminated. In the first full national reporting cycle, 66 per cent of Parties replied “yes” to the question under article 17.1 on whether they had facilitated the exchange of the specified information. In comparison, 34 percent responded “no.” Some Parties also reported a lack of capacity to share scientific information on mercury and its compounds. These findings point to the need for a dedicated, accessible and user-oriented mechanism, such as the proposed Minamata Convention Exchange Platform, to amplify the visibility of good practices, bridge capacity gaps and foster continuous, structured information exchange.

4. In line with Article 17 of the Convention, the platform will facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds. This includes toxicological and ecotoxicological data; information on reduction or elimination of production, use, trade, emissions and releases; alternatives to mercury-added products and processes; and epidemiological information on health impacts.

5. The implementation of the Minamata Convention Exchange Platform under the Minamata Convention is expected to build on existing digital infrastructure and resources, while progressively evolving into a dynamic process and service that facilitates structured information exchange and cooperation among parties and stakeholders. Its scope and functionalities will expand over time to include interoperable tools, curated content, and collaborative features, aligned with the Convention’s strategic priorities and the needs of its users. Ultimately, it aims to strengthen the Convention’s role as a global knowledge platform for mercury-related issues and support parties in meeting their obligations in a coherent, efficient and transparent manner.

II. Mission

6. The Minamata Convention Exchange Platform will be a key tool for facilitating structured and inclusive information exchange in accordance with articles 17 and 24 of the Convention. The platform will be designed to help build the capacity of parties and stakeholders to implement the Convention in an efficient and cost-effective manner, by providing centralized access to scientific, technical, legal and implementation-related knowledge. It will promote cooperation and interaction among parties and relevant organizations, support data interoperability and multilingual access, and enable informed decision-making through user-friendly digital services.

III. Goals

7. The main goals of the Minamata Convention Exchange Platform are:

(a) **Support the implementation of the Convention:** by providing parties and stakeholders with centralized, user-friendly access to scientific, technical, legal and policy information relevant to mercury, organized around the Convention's thematic areas of work.

(b) **Facilitate the exchange of information:** by enabling the timely sharing of experiences, guidance and expertise among Parties, regions and partners, such as the Global Mercury Partnership and the Global Framework on Chemicals.

(c) **Build capacity and promote cooperation:** by supporting parties in meeting their obligations by fostering digital literacy, offering training opportunities, and encouraging collaboration across sectors.

IV. Digital strategy principles

8. The Minamata Convention Exchange Platform will operate following the principles in the secretariat's digital strategy (UNEP/MC/COP.5/19) and the UN system principles on digital cooperation and knowledge management:

(a) **User-centred design:** it shall be tailored to the needs of parties and stakeholders, ensuring intuitive multilingual access, robust search functionalities, and be relevant across technical, policy and broader users.

(b) **Accessibility and inclusiveness:** it will promote equitable access to knowledge for all parties, including developing country parties, and ensure the visibility of diverse groups of expertise, including from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth.

(c) **Interoperability:** it will build on existing tools and standards within the Convention's digital ecosystem and ensure coherence with other multilateral environmental agreements clearing-house mechanisms, including InforMEA, to enable data sharing and avoid duplication of efforts.

(d) **Credibility and quality assurance:** information hosted or linked by the platform will be sourced from authoritative entities and subject to quality assurance processes, ensuring the use of standardized metadata, upholding the scientific and technical integrity of the Convention's work.

(e) **Transparency and open knowledge:** it will promote open access to public information and facilitate the discoverability and traceability of documents, datasets, and decisions, while respecting confidentiality where applicable.

(f) **Privacy and confidentiality:** it will follow protocols for managing confidential and proprietary information and restricting access to data.

(g) **Sustainability and scalability:** it will be developed in a modular, cost-efficient manner that enables progressive enhancement over time, based on available resources and evolving party needs.

(h) **Innovation and adaptability:** it will integrate emerging technologies and best practices to support knowledge exchange, including data visualization, e-learning, and artificial intelligence, where appropriate and ethically sound.

V. Scope

9. The Minamata Convention Exchange Platform is designed to facilitate the structured exchange, access and use of knowledge and information relevant to the implementation of the Convention. It serves as a collaborative knowledge system that integrates scientific, technical, legal and policy information, and enables parties and stakeholders to contribute to and benefit from a dynamic and user-oriented information ecosystem. In line with articles 17 and 24 of the Convention, the platform aims to promote knowledge and cooperation.

VI. Key pillars

10. The proposed platform will be structured around three key pillars of knowledge management: technology, people, and processes and standards.

(a) **Technology:** the Minamata Convention Exchange Platform will build on the Convention's existing digital infrastructure to provide a coherent and user-focused information

environment. It will be integrated with the Convention's website data architecture. It will also consolidate access to official documents, technical guidance, and learning materials, while progressively enabling data interoperability with external platforms such as InforMEA and the GEF projects database.

(b) **Participation, network and capacity:** The platform will facilitate information sharing and collaboration among parties and stakeholders and across the Global Mercury Partnership, the Global Framework on Chemicals, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, InforMEA and other relevant organizations and initiatives. It will promote access to diverse knowledge sources, including national case studies and stakeholder experiences, and enhance engagement through capacity-building tools such as Minamata Online and e-learning modules. Multilingual access, low-bandwidth compatibility, and inclusive design will support equitable participation and strengthen the Convention's knowledge community.

(c) **Processes and standards:** The third pillar ensures that the platform is grounded in robust governance, shared standards, and responsible innovation. It will adhere to open knowledge principles while respecting confidentiality and apply metadata standards and taxonomies aligned with InforMEA and UNEP-wide data frameworks. A content validation process will ensure quality and institutional coherence, while user feedback and web analytics will support continuous improvement. Over time, the platform could incorporate AI-enabled features for information discovery and reporting, in line with the UN's guidance on ethical and secure digital transformation.

VII. Implementation roadmap for the biennium 2026-2027

11. The implementation of the proposed platform will follow a phased, strategic approach, prioritizing core functions and building on the Convention's digital infrastructure. The platform will be developed incrementally in a cost-effective manner, aligning with the secretariat's digital strategy. Initially, it will focus on leveraging existing tools and resources and expand in line with the parties' needs and strategic priorities.

12. During the biennium 2026–2027, subject to availability of resources, activities will focus on gathering inputs from parties, structuring data and knowledge already available, and developing thematic and technical components to serve both information sharing and cooperation objectives. The following table summarizes key activities, expected outcomes, and their implementation timeline:

<i>Proposed activities for the operationalization of the Minamata Convention Exchange Platform to be undertaken during the biennium 2026-2027</i>				
<i>Activities</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Expected outcomes</i>	<i>Approach</i>	<i>Year</i>
Activity 1: Conduct an initial survey to gather party input on information exchange needs.	The secretariat will launch a targeted survey to collect information from parties on their needs, preferences, and expectations regarding the Minamata Convention Exchange Platform, in line with the Convention's obligations expressed in articles 17 and 24.	Party perspectives and thematic priorities are collected to guide platform features and content.	Design and distribute a multilingual survey instrument with follow-up consultations where needed. The results will inform the platform architecture and content planning.	2026
Activity 2: Extract insights from the full national reporting cycles 1 and 2 (article 17)	Responses submitted under Article 17 in the first and second full national reports will be analyzed to extract trends, challenges and good practices, to input the platform.	Key insights are structured and made accessible on the platform to support knowledge sharing and policy development.	Apply a structured review methodology to the relevant sections of national reports; synthesize findings into thematic summaries, organize data cycle, country, and region.	2026
Activity 3: Digitize party submissions and develop public registers (e.g. focal points)	Submissions such as focal point nominations will be digitized and made publicly accessible through searchable, structured formats.	Improved visibility and structured access to party data and formal submissions.	Design and populate public registers based on existing submission archives; ensure interoperability with the Online Reporting Tool.	2026
Activity 4: Develop a digital repository of information on mercury-added products in collaboration with the Global Mercury Partnership (GMP) and other possible topics	The secretariat will contribute to a dedicated knowledge repository focused on mercury-added products, featuring curated scientific, regulatory and guidance materials.	A thematic repository is launched as part of the platform with accessible, curated resources, supporting parties in implementing Annexes A and B.	Co-develop metadata structure with GMP, populate repository with secretariat and partner resources, and ensure accessibility.	2027
Activity 5: Design and launch the core interface of the Minamata Convention Exchange Platform	The platform interface will be launched as a multilingual, user-friendly space with access to documents, thematic areas and collaboration tools.	The first operational version of the platform is available to users with core features.	Build upon the existing Convention website's data architecture, ensuring responsive design and adherence to accessibility standards.	2027
Activity 6: Publish one party case study highlighting information exchange practices	A case study will be developed in collaboration with one party to document practical experiences and lessons learned in using digital tools for information sharing	Documented example of party-led knowledge sharing to inspire broader engagement	Identify and work with a party willing to share its approach; co-author and publish a narrative case study.	2027
Activity 7: Develop a user feedback and analytics mechanism for continuous platform improvement	A feedback loop will be introduced to monitor user satisfaction, engagement, and feature usage.	Mechanism in place to measure use, collect feedback and inform platform improvements.	Integrate analytics and survey tools into the platform; produce regular reports to guide decision-making and technical upgrades.	2027