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

Geneva, 3–7 November 2025  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**International cooperation and coordination**

**Information on activities undertaken by the secretariat of the  
Minamata Convention on Mercury to cooperate and coordinate  
with other entities: December 2023 to June 2025\*\***

**Note by the secretariat**

1. Annex I to the present note sets out a report on the main activities undertaken from December 2023 to June 2025 by the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in cooperation and coordination with other entities, particularly in the chemicals and waste cluster. This document should be read in conjunction with document UNEP/MC/COP.6/21 on international cooperation and coordination.
2. The report on enhanced cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Minamata Convention and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions is set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/22 and the joint report on cooperation and coordination between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions is presented in UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/29, annex I.
3. Reports by other relevant international organizations and initiatives are set out in documents, UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/30, UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/31, UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/32, UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/33, UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/34 and UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/35.

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

\*\* This document has not been formally edited.

## Annex I

### **Information on activities undertaken by the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to cooperate and coordinate with other entities: December 2023 to June 2025**

#### **A. United Nations Environment Programme**

1. During the reporting period, the secretariat continued to engage with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at the programmatic level with a view to contributing to the implementation of relevant aspects of the UNEP medium-term strategy 2022–2025, the UNEP programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025 and resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly of relevance to the Minamata Convention. UNEP also provided programmatic support to the Minamata Convention for the implementation of its programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025. At the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), held in Nairobi from 26 February to 1 March 2024, the secretariat engaged in various activities during the UNEA MEA Day, including high-level dialogues and side events focused on pollution, compliance, and digital transformation in coordination with other MEA secretariats. Through bilateral meetings, a dedicated exhibition booth, and targeted outreach, the secretariat strengthened visibility and advanced collaboration with parties, non-parties, and key stakeholders.
2. The secretariat cooperated with UNEP Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (hereinafter “the Special Programme”). The secretariat participated in the task team that supported the review of the projects submitted during each round of applications for funding from the Special Programme; provided information and updates on the provisions of the Minamata Convention, on the Specific International Programme to support Capacity-building and Technical Assistance, and on the secretariat’s work during meetings of the Executive Board of the Special Programme; and provided input into the application guidance. On 24 April 2024, the secretariats of the Minamata Convention and of the Special Programme concurrently launched the fourth round of applications to the Specific International Programme and the eighth round of applications to the Special Programme. The secretariats coordinated on outreach to prospective applicants, participated in respective application webinars, coordinated social media posts featuring a decision tree, and provided individualized support to applicants, with a view to guiding prospective applicants towards the funding opportunities that best fit their needs. Further information on the Special Programme is set out in UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/16.
3. The secretariat shared information and good practices, including in relation to the functioning of the financial mechanism of the Convention, with the secretariat of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which was established pursuant to Environment Assembly resolution 5/14.
4. Furthermore, the secretariat contributed to and benefited from the ongoing efforts of UNEP to enhance cooperation and coordination with, and among, the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements. This included contributions to several projects run by the UNEP Law Division on the synergetic implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. The secretariat also contributed to meetings organized by UNEP to enhance such cooperation and coordination. Along with the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, it contributed to the sixth session of the Environment Assembly and the preparations for the seventh session. In preparation for the seventh session of the Environment Assembly, due to be held from 8 to 12 December 2025, the secretariat contributed to preparations for a potential supplementary agenda item on cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements. Along with secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, it provided input into a concept note prepared by the UNEP Law Division to facilitate the secretariats’ participation in, and ability to contribute to, the seventh session.
5. The secretariat also contributed to preparations of and took part in the capacity building workshop “Advancing effective Multilateral Environmental Agreements implementation in Central Asia: Promoting synergies and rights-based approaches to combat pollution” held on 17-19 June 2025

in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The meeting was organized by UNEP Law Division and UNEP Sub-regional office for Central Asia, and brought together representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, to advance the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Minamata Convention on Mercury, at the national level in the Central Asia region to combat pollution.

6. The Executive Secretary attended relevant meetings of the UNEP Senior Management Team in 2024 and 2025 that were extended to include the heads of secretariats of UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements. This initiative by the Executive Director of UNEP enabled the regular, high-level exchange of information and dialogue on issues of common interest. The exchange of information at the programmatic level was further facilitated by the involvement of the secretariat in the networks coordinated by UNEP. Through the network of focal points of multilateral environmental agreements, the secretariat was able to keep abreast of relevant activities and processes under way, particularly within the biodiversity and the chemicals and waste clusters.

7. The secretariat participated in the partners meetings of the Green Customs Initiative held on 7-8 February 2024 in Brussels, Belgium, and on 19-20 February 2025 in The Hague, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, to exchange information on the implementation of trade control measures under multilateral environmental agreements. On 26 May 2025, the secretariat also participated a webinar titled “Customs training to enhance monitoring of trade of mercury and mercury compounds” organized by UNEP under the project entitled “Project for promoting the Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan’s knowledge and experiences”. The programme of the sessions was designed to provide representatives from ministries of environment, Ministries of health and custom authorities with information on health-related issues linked to mercury, global mercury trade and the obligations of the Minamata Convention.

8. In response to decision MC-5/16 and as part of the implementation of the digital strategy, the secretariat has strengthened collaboration with other MEAs, with a particular focus on the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA). At the 14th InforMEA Steering Committee meeting held from 11 to 13 June 2024 in Montreux, Switzerland, the secretariat presented advances in data interoperability with the GEF project database.

9. The secretariat also continued cooperation at the programmatic level with other UNEP-administered initiatives, most notably the Global Mercury Partnership and the Global Framework on Chemicals, as described in the sections below.

10. The report by the Executive Director of UNEP to the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury at its sixth meeting (UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/30) sets out further details of the activities undertaken by UNEP in relation to work on mercury and to the decisions taken at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

## **B. UNEP Global Mercury Partnership**

11. The secretariat coordinated, in several ways, with the multi-stakeholder UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and its secretariat housed in the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch. The Partnership provided support to intersessional work in preparation for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, including in relation to the report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A to the Convention, update to the guidance document on national action plans on artisanal and small-scale gold mining, the Gender Action Plan, participation in the Effectiveness Evaluation Group and the Open-ended Scientific Group established in decisions MC-5/10 and MC-4/11 respectively. The secretariat worked with the Global Mercury Partnership in a number of capacity-building activities funded by the Global Environment Facility and other donors, through the secretariat’s participation in project meetings and contribution to their knowledge management platform. The secretariat also participated in the fourteenth meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group held online on 10 December 2024, and other meetings of individual partnership areas.

12. Further details on the activities undertaken by the Global Mercury Partnership are set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/33, which was submitted by the Partnership.

## **C. Global Framework on Chemicals**

13. Paragraph 4 of decision MC-5/18 on enhanced international cooperation and coordination, requested the secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals to ensure mutual support for the implementation of the Minamata Convention and the Global Framework on Chemicals and to develop a proposal for activities

providing such mutual support, to be included in the programme of work to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

14. The secretariat participated in the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Global Framework on Chemicals held from 24-27 June 2025 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Furthermore, the secretariat presented information on the Specific International Programme at information sessions for the members of the Executive Board of the Special Programme and the Executive Board of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund on 9 April 2024 and 19 March 2025. The secretariat also participated as an observer in the third meeting of the Executive Board of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund from 19 to 21 March 2025.

15. The Minamata Convention secretariat is engaged in a number of activities and processes that contribute to implementation of each of the Global Framework on Chemicals' objectives, while simultaneously facilitating parties efforts to fulfil the Convention's obligations. In moving forward, the following activities are planned to be carried out, as part of its programme of work, with the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals:

(a) contribute to the first International Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals, including preparing a report to map the Minamata Convention's contribution to the implementation of the Framework;

(b) provide policy inputs to the implementation programmes of the Framework, as appropriate, to advance integrated chemicals and waste management, in particular for the construction and electronics sectors;

(c) continue cooperation and coordination between the Specific International Programme and the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund;

(d) continue and enhance joint communication and outreach within the chemicals and waste cluster, including a joint exhibition booth together with the BRS conventions secretariat at UNEA-6.

#### **D. Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals, waste and pollution**

16. Governments established a Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals, Waste and Pollution on 20 June 2025 at the resumed session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG-3.2).

17. The intergovernmental meeting adopted three main decisions: on the establishment of the Panel, on recommendations for consideration by the Plenary at its first session, and on arrangements for the interim period (the documents are available on the OEWG website).

18. The panel is an independent intergovernmental body that will develop its programme of work and will be governed by a Plenary. An Interdisciplinary Expert Committee will coordinate the delivery of scientific, technical and capacity-building aspects of the panel's activities. The first meeting of the Panel is expected to take place by June 2026. The report by the secretariat of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel on chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution is set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/35.

19. The establishment of the science-policy panel is of direct relevance to the work of the Minamata Convention. One of the functions of the Panel will be "Responding to submissions and requests for the work programme from governments, including through the governing bodies of relevant United Nations entities, relevant multilateral, other international instruments and intergovernmental bodies by following procedures and processes set out in relevant documents". It is expected to the Plenary will further elaborate at its meetings on processes and procedures that would apply to the engagement of the MEAs in the Panels work.

#### **E. World Health Organization and International Labour Organization**

20. The secretariat continued its programmatic cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) by convening tripartite meetings and exchanging information with a view to identifying and carrying out concrete action to enhance implementation in areas of common interest, including dental amalgam, cosmetics, medical devices and human biomonitoring. The two organizations contribute to the work of the Open-ended Scientific Group for the effectiveness evaluation by nominating experts to the roster supporting the group.

21. Information submitted by WHO and ILO on their activities contributing to the implementation of the Minamata Convention is set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/31.

## **F. Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals**

22. The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was created in 1995 as an inter-agency coordination platform to support work on the sound management of chemicals. Its ten participating organizations are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ILO, OECD, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), WHO and the World Bank and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. The secretariat participates in the activities of the IOMC as an observer, together with other observers including the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). IOMC meets twice a year, uniting representatives of all the entities, and invites observers to the meetings.

23. Under the umbrella of IOMC, a mercury group met twice in the reporting period to exchange updates on activities undertaken in implementation of the Minamata Convention. It had in-depth discussions on mercury waste and human biomonitoring at these two meetings respectively. The GEF secretariat, ILO, OECD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO and the World Bank participate in the group. The secretariat participated actively in this information exchange.

24. The secretariat also collaborated directly with IOMC participating and observer organizations. The secretariat participated in meetings of the OECD Chemicals Committee held on 6-8 February 2024, 5-7 November 2024 and 10-12 June 2025. The secretariat also participated in the fourth Global Round Table on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, organized by ECE and OECD on 21-20 November 2024, to provide updates on the activities of the Minamata Convention. The secretariat participated in capacity-building events organized by UNITAR. Moreover, the secretariat started to cooperate with UNICEF to develop a joint publication on the risk of mercury to children.

25. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions became a participating organization to the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) in 2023, following a decision of the Conferences of the Parties. Following the BRS Conventions becoming a member, the secretariat has investigated a modality and cost for the Minamata Convention to also become a member. The annual fee for each member of IOMC is 10.000 USD.

## **G. Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

26. In accordance with paragraph 4 of article 24 of the Minamata Convention and decisions MC-3/11, MC-4/9 and MC-5/19, the secretariat continued to cooperate with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including under the overall direction of the joint task force on programmatic cooperation.

27. The respective executive secretaries agreed to prepare two joint documents on cooperation and coordination between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for their respective conferences of the Parties to provide details on the activities undertaken in several programmatic, technical and administrative areas. The first joint document, contained in annex I to document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/29, provides an update on the cooperation and coordination activities that have taken place during the reporting period. The second joint document presents an outline of future cooperation between the two secretariats and is contained in annex II to document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/29.

## **H. Contribution to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

28. At the first part of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Cali, Colombia, from 28 October to 1 November 2024, the secretariat actively engaged in advancing cooperation on biodiversity and mercury pollution, particularly through participation in Cooperation Day and high-level dialogues. The secretariat contributed to discussions on mercury use in gold mining, traceability in mineral supply chains, and regional collaboration in the Amazon. The Executive Secretary also held bilateral meetings with key stakeholders, including ECLAC, civil society, and Indigenous Peoples groups, reinforcing synergies with the Global Biodiversity Framework and strengthening partnerships to address impacts of mercury pollution on biodiversity. Further information on the activities undertaken by the secretariat in response to decision MC-5/17 on mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is contained in note

UNEP/MC/COP.6/20, which also presents a draft road map for enhancing co-benefits from implementation of the Convention and the Framework by 2030.

29. The secretariat continued to work with UNEP, the United Nations Statistics Division, and other organizations to provide data for measuring achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 12, on ensuring responsible consumption and production patterns, specifically indicator 12.4.1, which measures the number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement.

## **I. Other cooperation, coordination and information exchange**

30. The secretariat also cooperated with other intergovernmental organizations on a number of thematic issues, including with the International Criminal Police Organization on illegal trade, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification on the impact of gold mining to land degradation, and the World Customs Organization on the training of customs officers.

31. In January 2024, the International Atomic Energy Agency started a four-year project “Strengthening Ocean Health for Sustainable Development: A Global Approach Using Nuclear and Isotopic Techniques”, in which it supports developing countries in the monitoring of pollutants including mercury. The secretariat supported this project through the participation in technical meetings and communication to parties.

The secretariat has strengthened its collaboration with the Escazú Agreement secretariat through joint efforts on information sharing and awareness raising. A bilingual fact sheet will be launched at the Minamata Convention COP-6 Latin American regional meeting in September 2025 to highlight linkages between the two agreements.

32. Furthermore, the secretariat strengthened collaboration with the International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP). The Executive Secretary delivered a keynote speech at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICMGP, held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 21-26 July 2024. The secretariat organized a special session on science-policy interface and made scientific presentations at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. The secretariat submitted thematic proposals for sessions at the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting to be held in Hyderabad, India on 4-9 October 2026.

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