



**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

**Cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the
Minamata Convention on Mercury and of the Basel, Rotterdam
and Stockholm conventions: joint report of past activities and
framework for cooperation on planned activities****

Note by the secretariat

Annex I to the present note sets out a report on the main joint activities undertaken in 2024 and 2025 by the secretariats of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and 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 in areas of mutual interest. The report was prepared jointly by the two secretariats and is presented without formal editing. Annex II to the present note contains an outline of the main joint activities planned for the biennium 2026–2027, developed by the two secretariats and presented here without formal editing. The report and the outline have been updated since being submitted to the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their respective 2025 meetings in document UNEP/CHW.17/INF/54–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/INF/25–UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/44. This note complements the note by the secretariat on cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions contained in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/22.

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

** This document has not been formally edited.

Annex I

Joint report on cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention: activities undertaken in 2024 and 2025

I. Introduction

1. At its fifth meeting in November 2023, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention adopted decision MC-5/19, on cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Minamata Convention and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BRS Secretariat). In that decision, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention took note of the joint report on cooperation and coordination between the two secretariats and the outline of cooperation activities planned for the biennium 2024–2025. The decision also recalled similar requests as those contained in decisions BC-16/21, RC-11/8, SC-11/20.

2. At their meetings convened from 28 April to 9 May 2025, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions considered a report on the main cooperative activities undertaken by the two secretariats in 2024 and 2025 and an outline of future cooperation activities planned pursuant to decisions BC-16/21, RC-11/8 and SC-11/20. Following their consideration of the report and outline, the three conferences of the Parties adopted decisions BC-17/22, RC-12/9 and SC-12/23, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which, among other things, recalled decisions BC-16/21, RC-11/8, SC-11/20, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Notably, in those decisions, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions requested the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to continue, with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and under the overall steering of the task force, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, scientific, technical and technical assistance matters, in accordance with the programmes of work and budgets, and to explore ways to further strengthen the cooperation and collaboration with the Minamata Convention. The Executive Secretary was requested to continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programmes of work and budgets for each biennium.

3. The present report summarizes the main cooperation and coordination activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the BRS Secretariat in areas called for in decisions of the respective conferences of the Parties, namely decisions BC-16/21, RC-11/8 and SC-11/20 and MC-5/19.

II. Programmatic cooperation

A. Outreach, communication and event coordination

4. In 2024 and 2025, several awareness-raising events have been jointly organized between the secretariats, such as the chemicals and waste negotiator briefings that are facilitated by the Geneva Environment Network.

5. The secretariats have continued to plan for the organization of joint regional preparatory meetings, or of information sessions back-to-back to regional preparatory meetings, in advance to meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the conventions. The Secretariat of the Minamata Convention provided an update on developments occurring under the Convention to the four regional meetings held in March and April 2025 in preparation for the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

6. In order to ensure sound planning of meetings in the chemicals and waste cluster, the secretariats exchanged information on their planned meetings and events on a monthly basis through the BRS joint meeting calendar. UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch also took part in this internal information sharing and planning exercise.

7. Regarding the joint efforts to highlight the contributions of the conventions to broader environmental agendas, in particular to promote awareness of the chemicals and wastes conventions and their linkages to biodiversity, the secretariats:

(a) Held various informal consultations with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to exchange on opportunities to contribute to the work under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and explore cooperation on areas of common interest;

(b) Carried out, in April and September 2024, two webinars to highlight the contributions of the chemicals and waste conventions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;¹

(c) Attended the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity, from 13 to 18 May 2024, Nairobi, and the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties held from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia, and co-organized and participated in various side events held in the margins of these meetings to promote awareness of the chemicals and wastes conventions contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

8. Regarding the joint efforts to highlight the contributions of the conventions to combating climate change, the secretariats organized several side events during the twenty-eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held from 30 November to 13 December 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

9. The two secretariats have exchanged best practices and lessons learned in organizing more sustainable events. The BRS secretariat has shared insights on the implementation of its sustainability policy for events. This has included the development of communication materials and the implementation of zero-waste initiatives.

B. Financial resources

10. The secretariats have cooperated and coordinated on procedures and approaches established under the respective financial mechanisms of the Stockholm Convention and the Minamata Convention. As part of the cooperative activities undertaken, joint discussions between the secretariats of the GEF, the BRS conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) were organized on a regular basis in the context of meetings of the chemical and waste focal area task-force organized by the GEF secretariat. In addition, meetings among the secretariats were held in the context of the 9th replenishment of the Trust Fund of the Global Environment Facility. The secretariats are also collaborating on joint activities with InforMEA to standardize the automated harvesting of public data related to GEF projects and other sources and visualize them in a harmonized manner in databases and dashboards, with interoperability principles for the exchange of information between platforms.

11. The secretariats have continued cooperation in the context of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention, SAICM and GFC. Cooperation on issues pertaining to the Special Programme took place as part of an internal task team consisting of representatives of the BRS Secretariat, the Minamata Convention secretariat, GFC secretariat and the GEF to assist the Special Programme secretariat to review and appraise applications received, to participate in application webinars, and to inform the Executive Board of the Special Programme of relevant developments under the four conventions.

C. Implementation and compliance

12. The Minamata Convention and BRS secretariats were joint organizers with other secretariats of MEAs administered by UNEP of a side event showcasing how to address the triple planetary crisis through cooperation between the MEAs implementation and compliance committees in the margins of the sixth session of UNEA (Nairobi, 26 February to 1 March 2024).

13. The Minamata Convention secretariat and the Chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention participated in a dialogue on illegal traffic convened by the Basel Convention's Implementation and Compliance Committee during the second part of its sixteenth meeting (14-18 October 2024), which brought together Basel Convention Regional Centres, international organizations and compliance bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements. The dialogue served to exchange on their activities aimed at supporting Parties in preventing and combating illegal traffic. This dialogue assisted the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee in developing recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

¹ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/9990.

14. In addition, the BRS Secretariat participated as an observer to the seventh meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention (18 to 20 February 2025, Geneva) and shared information on trade control provisions under the Basel Convention.²

15. Furthermore, the Minamata Convention secretariat participated in a side event organized jointly by the compliance committees of the Basel Convention and the Rotterdam Convention during the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the BRS conventions entitled Agility and evolution of MEA Compliance Committees: progress achieved in supporting Parties and new developments³.

D. Technical assistance (including regional centres)

16. The Minamata Convention Secretariat has cooperated with many of the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres in the design and delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance activities, including those conducted through the financial mechanism. The agendas of the annual joint meetings of the directors and coordinators of the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres held respectively from 6 to 8 November 2023, online, and on 21 and 22 June 2024, in Geneva, included an item on cooperation with the Minamata Convention for the regional delivery of technical assistance on issues relating to chemicals and waste MEAs. Information on mandates related to cooperation between the BRS conventions and the Minamata Convention was provided along with an overview of the technical assistance needs of Parties under the Minamata Convention. Representatives of the Minamata Convention secretariat participated in those sessions and exchanged with regional centres.

17. Both secretariats cooperated under the framework of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, and the Mercury Waste Management Partnership, to support Parties to the Basel and Minamata conventions to implement environmentally sound management of mercury wastes.

18. In 2024, the Minamata Convention secretariat, jointly with the BRS Secretariat, developed capacity-building materials and convened webinars on the management of mercury wastes under the Minamata and Basel conventions, thanks to the generous financial support provided by the Government of Switzerland. The training materials were developed in consultation with the Global Mercury Partnership, Basel Convention regional centres, as well as other global partners. The materials and recording of webinars sessions are available on the Convention's website.⁴

19. Thanks to the generous financial support of the European Union and the governments of Germany and Switzerland, the BRS Secretariat organized trainings of potential chairs and negotiators for meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on 3-5 and 5-7 February 2025. Based on the successful experience in 2023 and given the cross-cutting nature of the training and its relevance to the chemicals and waste cluster in general, a number of participants who were involved in the work of the Global Framework on Chemicals and the Minamata Convention, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, were invited to participate. The secretariats of the Minamata Convention and the Global Framework on Chemicals delivered specific trainings sessions during the face-to-face components of the trainings. Three participants nominated by the Minamata Convention Secretariat attended the training.

20. In addition, the Minamata Convention and BRS secretariats both participated in the Programme on Capacity Building related to MEAs in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP MEAs Programme) implemented by UNEP and FAO. Within the context of the ACP MEAs Programme, both secretariats participated in project steering committee meetings being held regularly over the period.

E. Gender

21. The Minamata Convention secretariat delivered a session on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan for the Minamata Convention during the above-mentioned training for potential chairs for

² See document UNEP/MC/ICC/7/INF/3 on Information on best practices, possible approaches and initiatives from other multilateral environmental agreements regarding the functioning of their trade procedure, available at <https://minamataconvention.org/en/documents/information-best-practices-possible-approaches-and-initiatives-other-multilateral>.

³ <https://www.brsmeas.org/2025COPs/Sideevents/tabid/10110/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

⁴ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/news/capacity-building-material-mercury-waste-management-available-six-un-languages>.

meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions which took place on 3-5 and 5-7 February 2025.

F. Trade control of elemental mercury

22. Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention lists mercury compounds, including inorganic mercury compounds, alkyl mercury compounds and alkyloxyalkyl and aryl mercury compounds, as pesticides. However, elemental mercury is currently not listed in Annex III.

23. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention considered the recommendation by the Chemical Review Committee to list mercury (CAS No. 7439-97-6) in Annex III as an industrial chemical, made following its review of notifications of final regulatory action submitted by Colombia and the European Union, along with the draft decision guidance document for mercury prepared by the Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/13/Add.1).

24. The BRS Secretariat had shared information with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on the Committee's recommendation, the draft decision guidance document, and the potential implications of listing mercury in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention in advance of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and the Minamata Convention secretariat had contributed to the development of the draft decision guidance document that was considered and approved by the Chemical Review Committee.

25. During the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, while many representatives supported the listing of mercury in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention, citing its benefits for informed decision-making and protection of human health and the environment, some expressed concerns about potential duplication with the Minamata Convention, increased reporting burdens, and the need for further analysis of economic impacts. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of the matter to its thirteenth meeting.

G. Mercury wastes

26. Article 11 of the Minamata Convention provides that Parties shall take appropriate measures so that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner taking into account the technical guidelines developed under the Basel Convention. The technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2015 and updated in 2022.⁵

27. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention adopted decision MC-5/10, establishing 15 mg/kg total concentration of mercury as the threshold for wastes contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds, subject to the provision in paragraph 2 of that decision whereby it also decided that a Party may, subject to conditions set out in that paragraph and as an alternative, use a different approach to determine whether a given waste is a mercury waste falling under subparagraph 2 (c) of article 11 of the Convention. In the same decision, the secretariat of the Minamata Convention was requested to transmit its decision to the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention and to invite them to take it into account as appropriate.

28. At its seventeenth meeting, in decision BC-17/7, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention decided to update the technical guidelines to reflect adjustments consequential to the establishment of a mercury threshold for wastes, in accordance with decision MC-5/10, and requested the secretariat of the Basel Convention to prepare, in cooperation with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, draft updated technical guidelines, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention at its fifteenth meeting (22-26 June 2026) and by the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention at its eighteenth meeting (19-30 April 2027).

29. As described in the above section on technical assistance, with financial support from Switzerland, the secretariat of the Minamata Convention cooperated with the secretariat of the Basel Convention, as well as the Global Mercury Partnership, to develop a capacity-building material on mercury waste management building on the available information on the implementation of paragraph 3 of Article 11. The capacity-building materials available in the six UN languages were presented at webinars in November-December 2024⁶. Both secretariats also exchanged information through the activities of the Global Mercury Partnership, including a side event on mercury waste management,

⁵ UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.6/Rev.1.

⁶ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/events/six-language-webinars-mercury-waste-management>

held on 7 May 2025, during the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the BRS conventions.

H. Effectiveness evaluation and global monitoring

30. Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention provides for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention. To this end, the Conference of the Parties has adopted a framework for effectiveness evaluation⁷ including the terms of reference of the effectiveness evaluation committee, a global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants,⁸ and established the regional organization groups and the global coordination group for the global monitoring plan. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties conducted the second evaluation of the effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention,⁹ taking into account information, inter alia, from the third report of the global monitoring plan.¹⁰

31. Similarly, Article 22 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury contains provisions on the effectiveness evaluation. At its fourth meeting, in decision MC-4/11, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention agreed to initiate the first effectiveness evaluation of the Convention and adopted a framework for this purpose, as set out in annex I to the decision. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties established the Open-ended Scientific Group to develop a scientific report and draw conclusions thereon for consideration by the effectiveness evaluation group. The Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, in decision MC-5/14, established the Effectiveness Evaluation Group.

32. In this context, the BRS Secretariat has collaborated with the Minamata Convention secretariat, including by participating in an online meeting of the Open-ended Scientific Group of the Minamata Convention on 4 December 2024, where information was shared on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants that could be relevant to mercury monitoring.

33. Furthermore, the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, through a GEF-funded project, has supported the implementation of the third phase of the global monitoring plan. For the fourth phase of the global monitoring plan (May 2023–May 2029), preparations are underway for a new project, titled the Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme (UNEP/GEF GCMP).¹¹ This project will support the monitoring activities under both the Stockholm Convention and the Minamata Convention.

I. Knowledge and information management

34. The secretariats have continued their collaboration in the context of the InforMEA initiative by sharing tools, experiences and best practices on knowledge management, in particular in developing standards to exchange information on projects, in using shared taxonomies management tools and sharing knowledge on how to visualize data on dashboards. The secretariats also collaborated in the organisation of side events during the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (26 February to 1 March 2024), in cooperation with InforMEA and other MEAs secretariats.

III. Sharing and purchase of secretariat services

35. The secretariats have continued to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services from one another in 2024 and 2025, on a cost recovery basis, in accordance with the programme of work and budget of each respective convention.

36. The Minamata Convention secretariat provided services, including document management and registration support, to the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the holding of the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The secretariat of the Minamata Convention has requested services, including IT, document management and control, registration and travel of sponsored delegates from the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the organization of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/20/Add.1.

⁸ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/31/Add.1.

⁹ UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1, UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/36.

¹⁰ UNEP/POPS/COP.11/20/Add.1, UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/38.

¹¹ <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11534>

37. At the time of writing of the present note, the BRS Secretariat and the Minamata Convention Secretariat are finalizing an agreement whereby the former will provide secretariat services to the Minamata Convention Secretariat for the organization of sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

Annex II

Stable framework for cooperation between the secretariats of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions: outline of activities planned for 2025 and in the biennium 2026–2027

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with their respective decisions, namely decisions MC-5/19, BC-16/21, RC11/8 and SC-11/20, the conferences of the Parties to the Minamata Convention and to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, requested the respective executive secretaries of the conventions to report on the implementation of those decisions, including on a stable framework for cooperation and for the sharing of services, providing an outline of the cooperation activities planned under such a framework for the biennium 2026–2027, for the consideration by the respective conferences of the Parties at their 2025 meetings.

2. At their meetings convened from 28 April to 9 May 2025, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions considered a report on the main cooperative activities undertaken by the two secretariats in 2024 and 2025 and an outline of future cooperation activities planned pursuant to decisions BC-16/21, RC-11/8 and SC-11/20, as set out in joint documents UNEP/CHW.17/INF/54-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/INF/25-UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/44. Following their consideration of the report and outline, the three conferences of the Parties adopted decisions BC-17/22, RC-12/9 and SC-12/23, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which, among other things, recalled decisions BC-16/21, RC-11/8, SC-11/20, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Notably, in those decisions, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions requested the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to continue, with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention and under the overall steering of the task force, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, scientific, technical and technical assistance matters, in accordance with the programmes of work and budgets, and to explore ways to further strengthen the cooperation and collaboration with the Minamata Convention. The Executive Secretary was requested to continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programmes of work and budgets for each biennium.

3. The outline sets out in the present note summarizes the main future programmatic and administrative cooperation and coordination activities that are planned to be jointly undertaken, under the stable framework for cooperation, by the secretariats of the Minamata Convention and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in areas called for in decisions MC-5/19, BC-17/22, RC-12/9 and SC-12/23. A number of those activities will be carried out with generous voluntary financial support from donors.

4. The outline highlights the work of UNEP in relevant areas of cooperation which supports the two secretariats in their efforts to enhance their cooperation.

II. Programmatic cooperation

A. Outreach, communication and event coordination

5. The secretariats will continue to organize joint briefings to permanent missions in Geneva, through regular chemicals and waste negotiator briefings that are facilitated by the Geneva Environment Network.

6. The secretariats will continue to plan for the possible organization of joint regional preparatory meetings, or of information sessions back-to-back to regional preparatory meetings, in advance to meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the conventions. The BRS Secretariat is planning to provide an update on developments occurring under the conventions to the four regional meetings that are to be held in September and October 2025 in preparation for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

7. The secretariats will continue to produce a shared calendar of events that are relevant to the implementation of the respective conventions, through the BRS joint meeting calendar. UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch will continue to take part in this internal event planning exercise.

8. The secretariats will continue to coordinate efforts to highlight the contributions of the conventions to other processes within the chemicals and waste cluster, as appropriate, e.g., the Global Framework on Chemicals, and on broader environmental agendas, such as climate change and biodiversity loss.

B. Financial resources

9. The secretariats cooperate and coordinate on procedures and approaches established under the respective financial mechanisms of the Minamata Convention and the Stockholm Convention. Joint discussions between the secretariats of the GEF, the BRS conventions, the Minamata Convention and GFC will continue to take place on a regular basis in conjunction with regular meetings of the Chemical and waste focal area task-force organized by the GEF Secretariat. In addition, together with the GEF and the GFC secretariats, the two secretariats will continue to hold regular meetings on communications and knowledge management with a view to improving public awareness on the technical approaches and results of GEF investments in the chemicals and waste focal area.

10. The secretariats will continue cooperation in the context of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention, SAICM and the GFC. Cooperation on issues pertaining to the Special Programme will continue to take place as part of an internal task team consisting of representatives from the secretariats of the BRS conventions, the Minamata Convention, GFC and the GEF to assist the Special Programme Secretariat to review and appraise applications received.

C. Implementation and compliance

11. The programme of work of the Basel Convention's Implementation and Compliance Committee for 2026–2027, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in its decision BC-17/14 on Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance, includes a specific activity calling for cooperation with the Minamata Convention, in the context of preventing and combating illegal traffic, in addition to an activity to more generally continue the dialogue and coordination with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, relevant international organizations and cooperate with compliance bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements on their activities aimed at supporting Parties in preventing and punishing illegal traffic.

12. Cooperation on compliance matters is expected to continue in the future, including with the Rotterdam Convention's Compliance Committee and the Stockholm Convention's Compliance Committee which have a specific mandate for information sharing with compliance committees under relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

D. Technical assistance (including regional centres)

13. The Minamata Convention Secretariat will continue to cooperate with the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres in the design and delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance activities, including those conducted through the financial mechanism. Efforts to enhance cooperation with the regional centres in the delivery of technical assistance under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention will continue, e.g., through annual meetings of the regional centres.

14. Regarding the trainings organized by the BRS Secretariat for potential chairs and negotiators for meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, involving participants from GFC, the Minamata Convention, the Montreal Protocol and the intergovernmental negotiation committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, included in the marine environment, similar activities will be organized in the future, including exploring joint activities, subject to the availability of funding.

15. With respect to delivery of technical assistance, the secretariats will make use of joint participation in relevant capacity-building activities, including projects, workshops and online training events, as appropriate, to expand the dissemination of, and understanding of, guidance documents, tools, and training materials. Cooperation between secretariats will continue under technical assistance activities implemented by others, for instance under the Programme on Capacity Building related to

MEAs in the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP MEAs Programme) implemented by UNEP and FAO, and the technical assistance activities planned by UNEP Law Division on enhancing synergies across clusters.

E. Gender

16. Both secretariats will continue to share experience and lessons learned in the field of gender mainstreaming in line with relevant mandates from the conferences of the Parties. The Minamata Convention Secretariat will continue to cooperate with the BRS secretariat in the implementation of the Minamata Convention Gender Action Plan and related priority activities for the upcoming biennium. The cooperation between the two secretariats will focus in particular on one priority activity related to the incorporation of gender elements into existing training. A session on bringing a gender lens into the work of the Minamata Convention has been offered to participants attending the trainings organized by the Secretariat for potential chairs in February 2025. In addition, the BRS and Minamata secretariats will both continue to participate in the MEAs gender focal points network convened by UNEP Law Division to promote collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

F. Trade control

17. The BRS and Minamata conventions have provisions to control international trade, including restriction of import and export and prior informed consent. Customs offices of Parties to the conventions need to be involved in the enforcement of those trade provisions. Both secretariats participate in the UNEP Green Customs Initiative (GCI) to support customs and trade control authorities, together with other MEAs and intergovernmental organizations. Specific activities through GCI include the publication of the Green Customs Guide, information exchange on customs codes, and delivery of trainings for customs officers. Exchanges of information and experience on trade control measures and illegal traffic and trade in chemicals and hazardous and other wastes will continue to take place in the future.

18. The Minamata Convention and BRS secretariats are likely to increase their cooperation on the issue of illegal traffic of mercury wastes. In paragraph 12 of decision MC-5/10, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention invited the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider illegal traffic of mercury waste, as appropriate, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. As a response to this invitation, the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee included in its proposed work programme for 2026–2027 a scoping of illegal traffic related to hazardous wastes and other wastes, identifying specially mercury wastes (see the section C. above), and the Conference of the Parties, in its decision BC-17/14, agreed to this proposal. Furthermore, paragraph 5 (d) of decision MC-5/2 requested the Minamata Convention Secretariat to broaden its cooperation with the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, such as the BRS Secretariat and the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol, to strengthen the implementation of Article 3 provisions on mercury supply sources and trade.

19. Furthermore, the two secretariats are expected to increase their cooperation on information exchange regarding the trade in mercury if the chemical is added to Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

20. At its sixth meeting in November 2025, the Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention will consider a study of the global supply, production, trade and use of mercury compounds. Such study was requested by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in response to paragraph 13 of Article 3 of the Minamata Convention which states that the Conference of the Parties shall evaluate whether the trade in specific mercury compounds compromises the objective of the Convention, and shall consider whether specific mercury compounds should be made subject to paragraphs 6 and 8 of Article 3 on imports and exports, currently applying only to elemental mercury. Collaboration between the two secretariats on this matter may increase in the future.

G. Mercury wastes

21. The secretariats will cooperate in the implementation of decision MC-5/10, particularly paragraph 9 of the decision regarding information submitted by Parties regarding their waste management regulations and programmes as mentioned in subparagraph 3 (a) of article 11, with a focus on matters not addressed by the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds, as appropriate.

22. The Minamata Convention Secretariat will support the Basel Convention Secretariat on the review and update of the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste consisting, containing and contaminated with mercury, to reflect adjustments consequential to the establishment of a mercury threshold for wastes in accordance with decision MC-5/10, as requested in decision BC-17/7 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

23. Both secretariats will continue to provide technical assistance and capacity building to Parties on the identification and the environmentally sound management of mercury waste. In particular, cooperation will continue through the further use and improvement of the capacity-building materials on the management of mercury wastes available in the six UN languages, thanks to generous support provided by the Government of Switzerland.¹²

24. In addition, both secretariats will continue to cooperate on the issue of mercury wastes under the framework of UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and the Mercury Waste partnership area, as well as the IOMC mercury group.

H. Effectiveness evaluation and global monitoring

25. The BRS Secretariat will continue its cooperation with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on activities related to effectiveness evaluation and the global monitoring plan. This collaboration will include participation in expert group meetings, where discussions on technical and scientific matters will support the implementation of both Conventions. The second meeting of the Open-ended Scientific Group of the Minamata Convention was held in Minamata City, Japan, from 17 to 21 March 2025.

26. Furthermore, the Secretariats will jointly engage in technical assistance initiatives, such as the UNEP/GEF Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme (GCMP) project. This project is expected to provide support for the Stockholm Convention's monitoring of persistent organic pollutants and the Minamata Convention's monitoring of mercury, ensuring a harmonized and efficient approach to global chemical monitoring.

I. Knowledge and information management

27. The BRS Secretariat will continue collaborating with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention by sharing experiences and best practices on knowledge management as well as by developing tools and interfaces for automated data and information exchange as part of the InforMEA initiative hosted by UNEP.¹³

28. Under the framework of InforMEA, the main activities identified for further collaboration are:

- (a) Sharing experiences from the clearing-house mechanism to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge management tools;
- (b) Researching and implementing best practices in knowledge management.
- (c) Developing automated application programming interface (API) testing tools¹⁴ to meet new needs;
- (d) Utilizing taxonomies and terminology to tag content and improve information retrieval;
- (e) Sharing experiences on developing e-learning courses;
- (f) Exploring ways to visualize data on national reporting dashboards;
- (g) Collaborating with other MEAs and entities through InforMEA to develop tools and standards for project data;
- (h) Utilizing Artificial Intelligence to explore data mining capabilities.

¹² <https://minamataconvention.org/en/news/capacity-building-material-mercury-waste-management-available-six-un-languages>.

¹³ www.informea.org.

¹⁴ API automation testing is a type of automated testing that focuses on the performance and functionality of APIs. This process can test APIs for correctness, compatibility, and efficiency. API automation testing can ensure that APIs function properly and meet consumers' expectations.

J. Environmental sustainability

29. The secretariats will continue to cooperate in the development of environmental sustainability policies and management schemes for the respective secretariats, based on the UN 2020–2030 Strategy for sustainability management¹⁵ and relevant policies developed by the Environment Management Group and the Sustainable United Nations facility. The scope of those policies and management schemes is still being defined, but will certainly include guidance for the secretariats and Parties on the organisation of green events, including on travelling and management of meeting venues. Since both secretariats are currently developing their environmental sustainability policies, collaboration will also extend to updating the respective policies based on shared lessons learned.

III. Sharing and purchase of secretariat services

30. The BRS Secretariat has requested services from the Minamata Secretariat for the organization of the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Similarly, the Minamata Convention secretariat has requested services from the BRS Secretariat for the organization of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on 3-7 November 2025, and an agreement between the secretariats was under discussions at the time of writing of the present note.

31. In accordance with respective decisions of the conferences of the Parties, the two secretariats will continue the sharing and purchase of secretariat services in the biennium 2026-2027, on a cost recovery basis and pursuant to the adopted programmes of work and budgets.

¹⁵ https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/INF_3_Strategy-for-Sustainability-Management-in-the-UN-System.pdf.