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

Geneva, 3–7 November 2025  
Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*\*

**Programme of work and budget**

**Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027:  
budget activity fact sheets\*\*\***

**Note by the secretariat**

1. The proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027 is presented in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/23. The annex to the present note complements that proposal by setting out activity fact sheets for each budget element of the programme of work of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The fact sheets provide additional information on the work planned for the biennium 2026–2027, including on mandates, background information and rationales, activities and outputs, and costs associated with specific activities.
2. The programmatic description of the activities is aligned with document UNEP/MC/COP.6/23. Each activity or cluster of activities is indicated as “staff costs”, if it can be carried out with existing staffing; as “subject to the availability of resources”, if it is subject to donor funding to the special trust fund for the Minamata Convention; or as neither of the preceding, if it depends on an allocation from the budget of the general trust fund for the Convention.

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\* Reissued for technical reasons on 22 August 2025.

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

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

## **Annex**

### **Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027: compilation of activity fact sheets for each budget element**

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# Fact sheet A. Conferences and meetings

## Activity 1. Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

### Budget

General Trust Fund       Special Trust Fund

### Reference

**UNEP/MC/COP.6/23:** Programme of work and budget: proposed operational budgets for the two funding scenarios for the biennium 2026–2027

### Mandate

**Convention:** Article 23

**COP decision(s):** MC-1/10, MC-1/15, MC-2/5, and paragraph 198 of the report of COP-3, MC-5/20.

### Background and rationale

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the decision-making body of the Convention. The organization of its meetings is a core activity of the Secretariat. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties is proposed to be held over a period of five days to allow Parties to take relevant decisions to advance the implementation of the Convention and to continue its review and evaluation. The timing and duration of COP-7 is subject to a decision by the Conference of the Parties.

### Outcomes and activities

#### Component 1.1. Seventh meeting

##### OUTCOMES

Arrangements for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties are made and quality services provided.

Parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition are supported to participate in the meeting and thus contribute to the decision-making process. Meeting documents are prepared.

##### ACTIVITIES

- Prepare, edit, translate and publish meeting documents;
- Send invitation and confirmation letters, register participants, ensure accreditation of delegates and organize travel for funded participants (subject to the availability of resources);
- Provide support to the President (staff costs);
- Provide conference servicing at the meeting;
- Provide interpretation at the meeting in the six UN languages;

- Organize logistics at the meeting (meeting venue, UN security, information technology);
- Support participation of major groups, in particular Indigenous Peoples, women's and youth's groups.
- Prepare and translate meeting report.

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Percentage of working documents made available in languages within deadlines;
- Meeting facilities and services provided to ensure smooth running of the meeting;
- Participation of at least one representative per Party to the Minamata Convention that is a developing country or country with economy in transition in the COP;
- Number of men/women within delegations, chairs of contact and other groups;
- Number of participants from the major groups.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Meeting webpage for registration, documentation, and logistic info;
- COP-7 meeting report and feedback from meeting participants;
- List of participants of the COP.

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## Component 1.2. Regional preparatory meetings

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**OUTCOMES**

Arrangements for regional preparatory meetings made and quality services provided. Parties to the Convention are supported to prepare for COP-7 in 2027. Parties become familiar with the agendas and organization of work of the meeting and to have the opportunity to discuss regional challenges and positions. The capacity of Parties to participate in negotiations as members of their delegations as well as in the capacity of presiding officers and chairs of contact groups and other groups is enhanced.

**ACTIVITIES**

1. Organize travel of funded participants for regional preparatory meetings (subject to the availability of funding);
2. Arrange equipment, meeting venue, and provide interpretation for regional preparatory meetings where this is needed (subject to the availability of funding);
3. Staff travel to regional preparatory meetings;
4. Staff support for organizing regional preparatory meetings (staff costs).

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Travel of sponsored participants organized;
- Meeting facilities and services provided to ensure smooth running of the meetings;
- Effective support is provided by the Secretariat to representatives of Parties and observers, as appropriate, during the meetings.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- List of participants of the regional preparatory meetings;
- Proceedings of regional preparatory meetings;
- Feedback from meeting participants.

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**Partners**

United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) Conference Services, United Nations Department for Security and Safety, Host Country.

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## Socio-economic aspects

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**Sustainable Development Goals:** By ensuring informed participation of developing-country Parties and parties with economies in transition in the meetings of the conference of the Parties, this activity contributes to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda which reaffirmed the continued need for the participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in global decision-making. It also improves the legitimacy of the decisions adopted by the COP and encourages the implementation of the Convention at all levels.

**Balanced representation of men and women:** In the nomination process of participants to the meetings, the Secretariat will encourage a balanced representation of men and women within delegations.

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust Fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)
<b>1. Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties</b>												
<b>1.1. Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties</b>												
Conference services and logistics		350,000	<b>350,000</b>					350,000	<b>350,000</b>			
High-level segment		40,000	<b>40,000</b>		300,000	300,000						
Interpretation		115,000	<b>115,000</b>					115,000	<b>115,000</b>			
Meeting documents		300,000	<b>300,000</b>					300,000	<b>300,000</b>			
Meeting report		40,000	<b>40,000</b>					40,000	<b>40,000</b>			
Delegates' travel					425,000	<b>425,000</b>					425,000	<b>425,000</b>
Major groups participation					50,000	<b>50,000</b>					50,000	50,000
Surge capacity requirements for COP (logistics, participants, documents management)		270,000	<b>270,000</b>					240,000	<b>240,000</b>			
<b>Component total</b>		<b>1,115,000</b>	<b>1,115,000</b>		<b>775,000</b>	<b>775,000</b>		<b>1,045,000</b>	<b>1,045,000</b>		<b>475,000</b>	<b>475,000</b>
<b>1.2. Regional preparatory meetings</b>												
Meeting and travel costs					420,000	<b>420,000</b>					420,000	<b>420,000</b>
<b>Component total</b>					<b>420,000</b>	<b>420,000</b>					<b>420,000</b>	<b>420,000</b>
<b>1.3. Intersessional time-based expert groups mandated by the Conference of the Parties</b>												
Technical expert groups												
<b>Component total</b>												
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1,115,000</b>	<b>1,115,000</b>		<b>1,195,000</b>	<b>1,195,000</b>		<b>1,045,000</b>	<b>1,045,000</b>		<b>895,000</b>	<b>895,000</b>

**Overview of resources**

<b>Budget</b>	<b>General trust fund</b>	<b>Special trust fund</b>	<b>Total contribution</b>
2024-2025 approved	<b>1,142,000</b>	<b>845,000</b>	<b>1,987,000</b>
2026-2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	<b>1,115,000</b>	<b>1,195,000</b>	<b>2,310,000</b>
2026-2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	<b>1,045,000</b>	<b>895,000</b>	<b>1,940,000</b>

## Activity 2. Bureau of the Conference of the Parties

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### Budget

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General Trust Fund                       Special Trust Fund

### Reference

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**UNEP/MC/COP.6/23:** Programme of work and budget: proposed operational budgets for the two funding scenarios for the biennium 2026–2027

### Mandate

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**COP decision(s):** MC-1/1, MC-1/10, MC-2/5, MC-3/12, MC-4/13, MC-5/20

### Background and rationale

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The Bureau performs several functions during the COP as well as in the intersessional period. A specified task of the COP Bureau in the rules of procedures of COP is to examine the credentials of the representatives to the negotiating session and submit a report on these to the COP (rule 20). The Bureau is also responsible for advising the President with regard to the overall management of the intergovernmental process. It assists the President in the performance of his or her duties by providing advice and by helping with various tasks.

Rule 9 of the COP rules of procedure requires the Secretariat to prepare the provisional agenda of COP meetings in agreement with the President. Rule 12 requires the Secretariat to include any item that is proposed by a Party in agreement with the President. The President, in cooperation with vice-presidents, is to guide the preparation of the provisional agenda and the overall COP process management, including the chairing and formation of smaller groups.

The Bureau meets, in person and/or electronically, during this intersessional period, as well as during the COP meeting. The President is to chair the meetings of the Bureau.

The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties is composed of a President, and nine Vice-Presidents, with two members representing each UN region. The Chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee is an ex-officio member of the Bureau. The Bureau will hold one in-person meeting, tentatively planned to be in Geneva, Switzerland, in the run-up to COP-7. The Bureau will also hold regular online meetings as needed and decided by the Bureau.

### Outcomes and activities

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#### Component Meetings of the Bureau 2.1.

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##### OUTCOMES

Arrangements for the meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention are made and quality services provided. Members of the Bureau can advise the President with regard to the overall management of the intergovernmental process. Meeting documents are prepared.

##### ACTIVITIES

- Prepare and circulate documentation for the meetings (staff costs);
- Prepare and dispatch invitations (staff costs);

- Organize travel of sponsored Bureau members, including ex-officio members, as appropriate;
- Organize virtual meetings (staff costs);
- Provide logistical support;
- Support the Bureau and the Presidents during and between meetings (staff costs);
- Prepare the reports of the meetings and follow up on guidance provided at the meetings (staff costs).

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Meetings of the Bureau organized;
- Documentation for the meetings, including meetings reports, available;
- Effective support is provided by the Secretariat to Bureau members during the meetings;
- Number of men/women elected as Bureau members.

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Reports and lists of participants of the meetings of the Bureau;
- Meetings webpages;
- Feedback from Bureau members;
- Lists of participants of the Bureau meetings.

### Partners

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N/A.

### Socio-economic aspects

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**Sustainable Development Goals:** In between sessions, the Bureau supports the Conference of the Parties through the provision of advice to the President with regard to the overall management of the intergovernmental process. Bureau members represent their respective region and, as such, are pivotal to ensure good communication within regions and reporting the concerns that are specific to their regions. This will contribute to ensuring informed participation of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2025. As such, this activity contributes to the 2030 sustainable development agenda which reaffirmed the continued need for the participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in global decision-making.

**Balanced representation of men and women:** The Secretariat will encourage a balanced representation of men and women during the elections of officers. Among the current 10 Bureau members, there are 5 men and 5 women. In the upcoming election of Bureau members, the Secretariat will encourage to strive for a balanced representation.

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)
<b>2. Bureau of the Conference of the Parties</b>												
<b>2.1 Meetings of the Bureau</b>												
Meetings and travel costs	26,000		<b>26,000</b>					26,000	<b>26,000</b>			
<b>Component total</b>	<b>26,000</b>		<b>26,000</b>					<b>26,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>26,000</b>		<b>26,000</b>					<b>26,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>			

## Overview of resources

Budget	General trust fund	Special trust fund	Total contribution
2024-2025 approved	<b>26,000</b>		<b>26,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	<b>26,000</b>		<b>26,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	<b>26,000</b>		<b>26,000</b>

## Activity 3. Implementation and Compliance Committee

### Budget

General Trust Fund       Special Trust Fund

### Reference

**UNEP/MC/COP.6/14:** Report on the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, including recommendations

### Mandate

**Convention:** Article 15

**COP decision(s):** MC-1/7, MC-2/4, MC-3/9

### Background and rationale

The Minamata Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee is a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties established in Article 15 of the Convention. According to the rules of procedure of the Committee, it shall meet at least once in person between ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties. At its seventh meeting the Committee agreed to meet once online in early 2026 and in-person in the second half of 2026.

The convening of the next meetings of the Committee will require, amongst others, the following activities: development of meeting documents, presentations as well as any necessary background materials, management of invitations and registrations as well as support to the participation of sponsored participants and logistical arrangements with respect to the venue and hosting of the in-person meeting.

Support to travel of Committee members from developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, funded from the Convention's general trust fund, allows for their full and effective participation in the meetings and for the quorum to be reached, resulting in an inclusive decision-making process, improved legitimacy of the conclusions and decisions adopted, and increased commitment towards them. Such participation also allows the Committee to be in a position to determine the facts and root causes of the matters of concern and assist in its resolution, as the case may be, and to increased commitment by Parties towards decisions taken by the Committee.

The Secretariat will provide secretariat services during the meetings of the Committee, including delivery of presentations and assistance to the Chair and Vice-chair, and drafting/finalizing relevant documents for the meeting, including the meeting report. Additionally, the Secretariat may be requested by the Committee to carry out further specific work, including the development and dissemination of outreach materials, translation of submissions from Parties as per paragraph 4(a) of Article 15, as well as other translations.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> According to Rule 38 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, the working language of the Committee shall be English. In accordance with Rule 39, sessions of the meetings of the Committee where the implementation and/or compliance of a particular Party is being considered shall be interpreted from an official language of the United Nations other than English into English if so requested by the particular Party. Rule 40 states that official documents of the meetings shall be drawn up in English. However, submissions from Parties as per paragraph 4 (a) of Article 15 of the Convention shall be made in one of the six official languages of the United Nations. When submitted in one of the official languages of the United Nations other than English, the Secretariat shall make arrangements for their translation into English before their distribution. The Secretariat shall also make arrangements for the translation into English of national reports, or sections thereof, in one of the United Nations official languages other than English, prior to their distribution, when issues are to be considered by the

## Outcomes and activities

### Component 3.1. Meetings of the Implementation and Compliance Committee

#### OUTCOMES

Arrangements for the 2026 online meeting and the 2026 in-person meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC) are made, quality services provided, and meetings documents are prepared. Travel of ICC members from developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to the in-person meeting is organized.

#### ACTIVITIES

1. Prepare and publish pre-session meeting documents in consultation/cooperation with ICC Chair;
2. Organize pre-meetings and informal consultations (staff costs);
3. Prepare and dispatch invitations (staff costs);
4. Register participants and observers (staff costs);
5. Organize the travel of sponsored members;
6. Organize the travel of sponsored Party representatives, in cases of written submissions from Parties with respect to their own compliance;
7. Undertake logistical arrangements with respect to the venue and hosting of the meeting;
8. Prepare outreach and communications (web announcement, briefings, etc.) (staff costs);
9. Prepare outreach and communications materials as decided by the Committee;
10. Coordinate the meetings and provide assistance to the Chair and Vice-Chair (staff costs);
11. Prepare meeting reports (staff costs);
12. Conduct follow-up communications with members, Parties and observers as decided by the Committee (staff costs);
13. Organize in a similar way any additional meetings that the Committee may decide to hold by electronic means.

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Meeting documents prepared in consultation/cooperation with Committee members as appropriate and as per agreed deadlines;
- Meeting facilities and services provided to ensure smooth running of the meeting;
- Travel of sponsored members and Party representatives organized as appropriate.

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Meetings webpage;
- Feedback from members, enquiries or comments from meeting participants;
- List of participants to the meetings and reports of the meetings.

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Committee on the basis of national reports, in accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of Article 15 of the Convention, or when such national reports or sections thereof are required for the consideration of an issue on the basis of requests from the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with paragraph 4(c) of Article 15 of the Convention.

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## Partners

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N/A

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## Socio-economic aspects

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**Sustainable Development Goals:** By supporting the participation of members from developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the meetings of the Committee, this activity contributes to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda which reaffirmed the continued need for the participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in global decision-making.

**Balanced representation of men and women:** The members of the Committee are nominated by Parties' governments and elected by the Conference of the Parties on the basis of their expertise and equitable geographical distribution. Among the current 15 Committee members, there are six men and nine women. In the upcoming election of Committee members, the Secretariat will encourage Parties to achieve a balanced representation.

**Integrated Approach:** The meetings can contribute to catalyzing coordination among Parties and other relevant stakeholders, civil society and private sector, as relevant, for an improved implementation of and compliance with the Convention. The Rules of Procedure of the Committee regulate the participation of observers.

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)
<b>3. Implementation and Compliance Committee</b>												
<b>3.1. Meeting of the Committee</b>												
Meeting and travel costs	33,000		<b>33,000</b>					33,000	<b>33,000</b>			
Cost associated with the specific work identified by the Committee, i.e. translation of submissions, interpretation	12,000		<b>12,000</b>									
<b>Component total</b>	<b>45,000</b>		<b>45,000</b>					<b>33,000</b>	<b>33,000</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>45,000</b>		<b>45,000</b>					<b>33,000</b>	<b>33,000</b>			

## Overview of resources

Budget	General trust fund	Special trust fund	Total contribution
2024-2025 approved	<b>45,000</b>		<b>45,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	<b>45,000</b>		<b>45,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	<b>33,000</b>		<b>33,000</b>

## Fact sheet B. Capacity-building and technical assistance

### Activity 4. Capacity-building and technical assistance programme of the Minamata Convention

#### Budget

General Trust Fund       Special Trust Fund

#### Reference

**UNEP/MC/COP.6/13:** Implementation of activities pursuant to decision MC-5/12 and Article 14 on capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer

#### Mandate

**Convention:** Articles 14 and 24

**COP decision(s):** MC-2/11, MC-3/8, MC-5/12

#### Background and rationale

Article 14 of the Convention provides that Parties shall cooperate to provide, within their respective capabilities, timely and appropriate capacity-building and technical assistance to developing country Parties, in particular those that are least developed countries or small island developing states, and Parties with economies in transition, to assist them in implementing their obligations. Article 24 requests the Secretariat, as part of its functions, to facilitate assistance to Parties, particularly developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, on request, in the implementation of the Convention.

The identified activities to support the capacity-building and technical assistance programme of the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention are derived from the objective of the Convention and the obligations of the Parties to the Convention and are based on the needs identified or expressed by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. These needs have been identified through national reports according to Article 21, in completed Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) (as received by the Secretariat and posted on the Convention website), in ASGM national action plans (NAPs) (as received by the Secretariat and posted on the Convention website), through the Implementation and Compliance Committee, in information contained in applications to the Specific International Programme, during regional or other consultations, by formal request from an eligible Party, or through other communication to the Secretariat. Support activities are designed and prioritised according to their ability to help Parties implement the Convention, the evidence of need for the intervention, and the availability of funds, other contributions or partnerships to enable the activity.

In 2026–2027 the Secretariat will share Secretariat-managed tools, trainings, and Convention knowledge for wide dissemination to partners and stakeholders through a variety of approaches, including online information sessions. The Secretariat will continue to collaborate with the Global Mercury Partnership hosted by the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, to support capacity building and technical assistance

activities on mercury and the implementation of Minamata Convention obligations. The Secretariat will facilitate Party access to tools and expertise of the Partnership and will promote dissemination of Secretariat-managed information and training materials through the Partnership.

In line with paragraph 2 of Article 14, the Secretariat will further engage and work with, as appropriate, regional, sub-regional and national arrangements, including existing regional and sub-regional centres, and will explore opportunities to engage other multilateral and bilateral actors and the private sector as outlined below. The Secretariat will engage UNEP Regional Offices to identify needs and options for capacity-building and implementation support, and to expand the reach of Convention materials. In addition, the Secretariat will work with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on relevant matters of technical assistance as appropriate.

The Convention sets clear deadlines for Parties through agreed phase-out dates and time-bound obligations; these guide the prioritisation of activities. Activities will be carried out consistent with decision MC-5/15.

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## Outcomes and activities

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### Component 4.1. Tools, methodologies and delivery modalities

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#### OUTCOMES

Strengthened ability to design and deliver capacity-building and technical assistance to support Parties in implementing the Minamata Convention. Strengthened ability of Parties to implement obligations through the use of tools, methodologies, and micro-trainings.

#### ACTIVITIES (subject to the availability of resources)

- **Facilitated planning session on capacity-building needs and methods:** Undertake a series of facilitated planning sessions with UNEP Regional Offices, with participation of the Global Mercury Partnership and the UNEP Law Division, to discuss capacity-building approaches and delivery methods that could address needs expressed in national reporting, MIAs, NAPs, and relevant projects, as well as needs expressed through meetings and webinars of the Global Mercury Partnership and the 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP);
- **Digital learning and training materials dissemination:** Further expand use and accessibility of digital learning tools and micro-trainings, starting with an assessment of options for Secretariat's use, translation, interpretation, and adaptation of digital learning tools and trainings to optimize use of traditional and newer modes of delivery of core content. This activity will expand the reach and use of Secretariat implementation support tools, including those developed with the support of donors to the Special Trust Fund in previous years; Minamata Online; and relevant tools and training materials housed by the Global Mercury Partnership, InforMEA, and other partner organisations. This activity will bring a wider range of stakeholders into effective and participatory learning environments, and could include making available digital training expertise.

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Four facilitated planning sessions completed;
- At least five Secretariat tools and training materials translated into Spanish and French;
- At least 150 participants trained utilizing digital learning resources in three languages.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Reports of planning meetings;
- Translated training materials;
- Training and workshop materials, links, reports.

## Component 4.2. Specific capacity-building activities

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**OUTCOMES**

Enhanced capacities at the national level to implement the Minamata Convention with respect to relevant provisions of Articles 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11.

**ACTIVITIES** (subject to the availability of resources)

- **BAT/BEP Guidance:** Develop and deliver training, workshops, and targeted advisory services on use of BAT/BEP Guidance for Emissions and Releases, in cooperation with the Global Mercury Partnership;
- **Trade:** Develop and deliver training, workshops, and targeted advisory services on use of trade forms, application of customs and border controls, and, as appropriate, interim storage of mercury, including through capacity-building for information exchange focal points per Article 17 and sub-regional workshops with relevant trade-related organizations, in collaboration with the Global Mercury Partnership and/or the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions trade-related capacity-building efforts
- **Mercury-added Products:** Building on the output of the projects funded by the Global Environment Facility on mercury-added skin lightening products and dental amalgam, and based on the relevant decisions to be taken by the Conference of the Parties at the sixth meeting, develop and deliver training, workshops and targeted advisory services on controlling mercury-added products including cosmetics and dental amalgam;
- **Mercury Waste Guidelines:** Develop and deliver sub-regional workshops on management of mercury wastes, such as in the context of waste mercury-added products, closure or conversion of facilities that use mercury in industrial processes, and management of tailings at ASGM sites, and, in collaboration with the Global Mercury Partnership and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention; disseminate mercury waste management information materials and fact sheets, including with respect to the Basel Convention technical guidelines on mercury waste management.

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- 4 sub-regional workshops on BAT/BEP guidance delivered in at least two regions;
- 4 sub-regional workshops on trade delivered in at least two regions;
- 4 trainings on mercury-added products delivered in two languages;
- Tools and methodologies disseminated.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Workshop reports;
- Donor reports;
- Report on Secretariat activities to COP.

## Component 4.3. Capacity-building activities upon request

### OUTCOMES

Increased ability at the national level to address emerging and key challenges with respect to the implementation Minamata Convention through the provision of quick-response capacity-building support.

### ACTIVITIES (subject to the availability of resources)

- **Expert advice:** Provide tailored advice through relevant experts to address technical needs of Parties, including those implementing recommendations of the Implementation and Compliance Committee;
- **National, sub-regional, regional planning and implementation support meetings:** Organize national, sub-regional or regional meetings to develop plans and strategies to tackle key mercury issues, including strategies to leverage funding from other sources, and/or to address broader issues of concern related to the implementation of the Convention.

### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Up to five Parties supported;
- Up to three national, sub-regional or regional meetings convened.

### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Workshop, meeting reports;
- Report on Secretariat activities to COP.

## Component 4.4. Cross-cutting activities

### OUTCOMES

Strengthened integrated capacities at the national and sub-regional levels to implement the Minamata Convention.

### ACTIVITIES (subject to the availability of resources)

- **Sub-regional Trade and Supply Chain Training and Projects:** Deliver training and work with partners to build capacity and implement pilot projects to address trade and supply chain issues, implement customs codes, and counter illegal trade in mercury and mercury-added products, including through sub-regional workshops with relevant trade-related organizations;
- Promote the use of the technical document developed by the Secretariat on incorporating mercury action and targets on ASGM in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans under the Kunming-Montreal biodiversity Framework
- **Training for populations in vulnerable situations:** To assist Parties in advancing implementation of decision MC-5/15 on gender action plan, deploy targeted training for national focal points, project focal points, and other stakeholders, via e-learning and/or in conjunction with other relevant training and capacity-building events at national and sub-regional levels, such as through incorporation into trainings deployed in Component 4.2. All training materials would be available for use at the national and regional levels by other partners, including national focal points, project focal points, and regional and subregional centres of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, for adaptation and further use.

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Sub-regional trainings delivered in at least two regions;
- Four sub-regional pilot projects implemented in two regions;
- Training delivered in two regions.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Training materials and reports;
- Concept notes and project reports for pilot projects;
- Training participant lists.

**Partners**

The Secretariat's capacity-building and technical assistance programme leverages partnerships and builds on the expertise of the many actors in the chemicals and waste cluster. This includes the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the regional and subregional centres of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Global Framework on Chemicals, and the UNEP Regional Offices. IOMC organizations may be invited to contribute and participate in the workshops and projects, as appropriate. Other relevant key stakeholders are the Green Customs Initiative, the World Customs Organization, Interpol, and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Partners may also include the research institutions, non-governmental organizations and private sector organizations.

**Socio-economic aspects**

**Sustainable Development Goals:** The capacity-building and technical assistance programme of the Minamata Convention will contribute directly to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, significant contributions will be made to the following targets:

Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

**Populations in vulnerable situations:** The capacity-building and technical assistance programme of the Minamata Convention will give due consideration to the differential needs of, and risks and impacts on, men and women as well as to unique challenges faced by populations vulnerable to mercury exposure. The programme will promote a multi-stakeholder approach to raise awareness of the linkages between mercury exposure and the effects on human health.

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)
<b>4. Capacity building and technical assistance</b>												
<b>4.1 Tools, methodologies, and delivery modalities</b>												
Facilitated planning sessions on capacity building needs and methods				75,000		75,000				75,000		75,000
Digital learning and training materials dissemination				85,000	160,000	245,000				85,000	160,000	245,000
<b>Component total</b>				<b>160,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>				<b>160,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>320,000</b>
<b>4.2 Specific capacity-building activities</b>												
BAT/BEP Guidance				50,000	50,000	100,000				50,000	50,000	100,000
Trade				50,000	50,000	100,000				50,000	50,000	100,000
Mercury-added Products				70,000	100,000	170,000				70,000	100,000	170,000
Mercury waste guidelines				100,000	60,000	160,000				100,000	60,000	160,000
<b>Component total</b>				<b>270,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>530,000</b>				<b>270,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>530,000</b>
<b>4.3 Capacity-building activities on request</b>												
Expert advice				40,000	30,000	70,000				40,000	30,000	70,000
National, sub-regional, regional planning and implementation support meetings				120,000	100,000	220,000				120,000	100,000	220,000
<b>Component total</b>				<b>160,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>290,000</b>				<b>160,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>290,000</b>
<b>4.4 Cross-cutting activities</b>												
Sub-regional trade and supply chain training and projects				140,000	140,000	280,000				140,000	140,000	280,000
National linkages projects					60,000	60,000					60,000	60,000
Other Training				40,000		40,000				40,000		40,000
<b>Component total</b>				<b>180,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>380,000</b>				<b>180,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>380,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>770,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>1,520,000</b>				<b>770,000</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>1,520,000</b>

**Overview of resources**

<b>Budget</b>	<b>General trust fund</b>	<b>Special trust fund</b>	<b>Total contribution</b>
2024-2025 approved		1,520,000	1,520,000
2026-2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario		1,520,000	1,520,000
2026-2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario		1,520,000	1,520,000

## Fact sheet C. Scientific and technical activities

### Activity 5. Scientific support to the States Parties to the Minamata Convention

#### Budget

General Trust Fund       Special Trust Fund

#### Reference

<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/5:</b>	Implementation of decision MC-5/2 on mercury supply sources and trade
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/5/Add.1:</b>	Study of the global supply, production, trade and use of mercury compounds
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/6:</b>	Amendments to Annex A
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/6/Add.1:</b>	Report on cosmetics listed in part I of annex A
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/6/Add.2:</b>	Consideration of the feasibility of mercury-free alternatives for manufacturing vinyl chloride monomer production
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/6/Add.3:</b>	Extension of exemptions pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/7:</b>	Matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to decision MC-5/7 on artisanal and small-scale gold mining
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/8:</b>	Mercury waste
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/17:</b>	Identifying solutions in response to needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/21:</b>	International cooperation and coordination
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/24:</b>	Report on the needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, with regard to the effects of mercury on their health, livelihoods, culture and knowledge

#### Mandate

**Convention:** Articles 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, 24

**COP decision(s):** MC-1/2, 1-4, 1/13, 1/16, 2/6, 3/3, 3/6, 4/4, 4/6, 5/2, 5/3, 5/4, 5/5, 5/7, 5/8, 5/10

#### Background and rationale

Scientific knowledge forms the basis for Parties to take effective action to protect human health and the environment from mercury. Implementation of the control measures under the Convention relies on the development and dissemination of mercury-free technologies for products and processes, best available techniques and best environmental practice (BAT/BEP) for controlling emissions and releases and other mercury management technologies. The Secretariat is tasked with providing scientific and technical support to the Parties.

Article 19 provides that Parties shall endeavour to cooperate to develop and improve:

- mercury inventories
- modelling and monitoring of mercury in the environment

- health and environmental impact assessment of mercury
- information on the environmental fate and transport of mercury
- information on commerce and trade in mercury, and
- information and research on mercury-free products and processes, best available techniques, etc.

Research, development and monitoring promoted by Parties pursuant to Article 19 has contributed to the development of technical guidance and tools for implementing measures to reduce emissions and releases of mercury and exposure to it. The Conference of the Parties has developed such guidance through the establishment of group of experts with scientific and technical expertise, and so far adopted guidance on the development of ASGM national action plans, inventories and BAT/BEP on mercury emissions and releases, interim storage and the management of contaminated sites. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Secretariat to update these guidance and tools to address specific matters such as ASGM tailings and trade of mercury from primary mining. With regard to Article 11 (mercury waste), the Secretariat cooperates with the Basel Convention Secretariat to update the technical guidelines.

Scientific communities contribute to scientific and technical knowledge to implement the Convention. The International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP), established in 1990, has contributed to increase scientific knowledge that has underpinned the development and implementation of the Minamata Convention, together with existing academic societies and institutions. The Secretariat facilitates the cooperation among Parties, with the scientific communities and with broad stakeholders to provide scientific and technical support to Parties in implementing the Convention.

## Outcomes and activities

### Component 5.1. Improvement in methods for mercury inventories

#### OUTCOMES

Parties are supported for developing inventories of mercury supply, stock, trade, use, emissions, releases and disposal.

#### ACTIVITIES (subject to the availability of resources)

- Compile and disseminate information on statistical data, emission and release factors, technological assumptions and other technical information from various sources for the development of mercury inventories;
- Keep under review the existing guidance and tools including the stocks guidance under Article 3, guidance on ASGM national action plans under Article 7 and inventory guidance under Articles 8 and 9, and make available supplementary practical information on mercury inventories;
- Convene online scientific and technical workshops on mercury inventories.

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Technical information supplementing the inventory guidance and tools available on the Convention website.

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Convention website.

### Component 5.2. Information exchange on modelling and monitoring

#### OUTCOMES

Parties share information on the presence and movement of mercury in the environment and human populations obtained through monitoring and modelling.

**ACTIVITIES** (subject to the availability of resources)

- Compile and disseminate information on global, regional, national and local monitoring of mercury;
- Compile and disseminate information on the modelling of the movement of mercury in the environment and human and ecological exposure to it;
- Contribute to monitoring efforts and monitoring framework including indicators under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular under its Target 7.
- Convene online scientific and technical workshops on mercury monitoring and modelling.

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Scientific information on mercury monitoring and modelling available on the Convention website.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Convention website.

## Component 5.3. Assessment of health, environmental and socio-economic impact of mercury

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**OUTCOMES**

Parties share the scientific understanding on the health, environmental and socio-economic impact of mercury.

Parties are supported in the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities and in identifying possible solutions to the effects of mercury on their health, livelihoods, culture and knowledge.

**ACTIVITIES** (subject to the availability of resources)

- Compile and disseminate information on the human, environmental and socio-economic impact of mercury in the environment, exposure and risk assessment and public health measures;
- Convene online scientific and technical workshops on health and environmental risk of mercury;
- Gather further knowledge with regard to the needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities, with regard to the effects of mercury on their health, livelihoods, culture and knowledge, with a view to future work on identifying possible solutions;
- Support and carry out studies on the impacts of mercury pollution on ecosystems, and on Indigenous Peoples and on local communities;
- Collaborate with International Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) with regard its future assessments on pollution and biodiversity;
- Support efforts to raise awareness among Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders of the risks associated with mercury use in ASGM.

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Scientific information on the health and environmental impact of mercury available on the Convention website.
- Reports, recordings and other outcomes of activities to engage Indigenous Peoples and also local communities with regard to their priorities in relation to the use of mercury in ASGM.
- Awareness raising materials targeting Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other groups in relation to the use of mercury in ASGM.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Convention website.

- Publications on the impact of mercury on ecosystems, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

## Component 5.4. Information exchange in mercury reduction technologies

### OUTCOMES

Parties are supported with technologies to reduce and eliminate the use, emission and releases of mercury.

### ACTIVITIES (subject to the availability of resources)

- Collect and disseminate technical information on non-mercury alternatives to products and processes using mercury;
- Collect and disseminate Parties' experience in using the technical guidance to implement the Convention including the ASGM NAP guidance under Article 7, BAT/BEP guidance under Articles 8 and 9, interim storage guidance under Article 10, contaminated site guidance under Article 12, and update the guidance as new knowledge becomes available;
- Cooperate with the Basel Convention Secretariat to update the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of mercury waste and other technical tools on mercury waste management.
- Compile and disseminate technical information supplementing the existing technical guidance;
- Convene online technical workshops to support the Parties in using the technical guidance.

### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Updated technical information on the reduction and elimination of mercury use, emissions and releases available on the Convention website.

### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Convention website.

## Component 5.5. Cross-cutting scientific and technical activities

### OUTCOMES

Parties cooperate in developing scientific and technical knowledge and tools, including socioeconomic sciences.

### ACTIVITIES (subject to the availability of resources)

- Provide overall and cross-cutting support to the Parties in developing and sharing scientific and technical knowledge and tools;
- Convene online technical workshops on cross-cutting scientific and technical issues related to the Convention, including link with other environmental and sustainable development agenda and socioeconomic and behavioural sciences;
- Conduct a scoping study on possible areas where the strengthening of the science-policy interface would advance implementation of the Convention
- Convene a scientific and technical workshop on overarching topics related to mercury, inviting relevant experts from all the five UN regions and observers. This may take place back to back with the meeting of the International Conference on Mercury as Global Pollutants (ICMGP) to be held in Hyderabad in October 2026;
- Compile and synthesize information gathered from Parties and other stakeholders on their experience to (i) promote research on the impacts of mercury on biodiversity and ecosystem

functions and services, (ii) share their experience gained in promoting coordination and integration of biodiversity- and mercury-related priorities during through policy development and implementation, including lessons learned and challenges faced, and (iii) disseminate information on actions that can generate co-benefits to the Minamata Convention and the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- The scientific and technical work under the Convention is carried out in a good overall coordination;
- Parties receive timely scientific and technical advice.
- Scoping study on science-policy interface.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Convention website;
- Workshop report
- COP documents.

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**Partners**

UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch and Science Division, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat, Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution, intergovernmental organizations including the IOMC participating organizations, scientific bodies including ICMGP, other multilateral environmental agreements, Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres, national and international institutions, non-governmental organizations.

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**Socio-economic aspects**

**Sustainable Development Goals:** Scientific and technical activities under the Convention address the following targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

- Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

**Populations in vulnerable situations:** The capacity-building and technical assistance programme of the Minamata Convention will give due consideration to the differential needs of, and risks and impacts on, men and women as well as to unique challenges faced by populations vulnerable to mercury exposure. The programme will promote a multi-stakeholder approach to raise awareness of the linkages between mercury exposure and the effects on human health.

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)
<b>5. Scientific support to the Parties to the Minamata Convention</b>												
<b>5.1. Improvement in methods for mercury inventories</b>												
Expert support on mercury inventories				50,000	50,000	100,000				50,000	50,000	100,000
<b>Component total</b>				<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>				<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>5.2 Information exchange on modelling and monitoring</b>												
Expert support on modelling and monitoring				50,000	50,000	100,000				50,000	50,000	100,000
<b>Component total</b>				<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>				<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>5.3 Assessment of health, environmental and socio-economic impact of mercury</b>												
Expert support on impact assessment and on effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities				75,000	75,000	150,000				75,000	75,000	150,000
<b>Component total</b>				<b>75,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>				<b>75,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>
<b>5.4 Information exchange in mercury reduction technologies</b>												
Expert support on mercury reduction technologies				50,000	50,000	100,000				50,000	50,000	100,000
<b>Component total</b>				<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>				<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>5.5 Cross-cutting scientific and technical activities</b>												
Scientific and technical expert				470,000	400,000	870,000				470,000	400,000	870,000
Technical workshops on cross-cutting scientific issues and expert support related to Global Biodiversity Framework				100,000		100,000				100,000		100,000
<b>Component total</b>				<b>570,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>970,000</b>				<b>570,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>970,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>795,000</b>	<b>625,000</b>	<b>1,420,000</b>				<b>795,000</b>	<b>625,000</b>	<b>1,420,000</b>

**Overview of resources**

<b>Budget</b>	<b>General trust fund</b>	<b>Special trust fund</b>	<b>Total contribution</b>
2024-2025 approved	<b>0</b>	<b>1,420,000</b>	<b>1,420,000</b>
2026-2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	<b>0</b>	<b>1,420,000</b>	<b>1,420,000</b>
2026-2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	<b>0</b>	<b>1,420,000</b>	<b>1,420,000</b>

## Activity 6. Effectiveness evaluation

### Budget

General Trust Fund                       Special Trust Fund

### Reference

**UNEP/MC/COP.6/16:** Progress report on the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

**UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/22:** Preliminary draft outline of the first effectiveness evaluation report of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

**UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/23:** Update on the work of the Open-ended Scientific Group

### Mandate

**Convention:** Article 22

**COP decision(s):** MC-1/9, MC-2/10, MC-3/10, MC-4/11, MC-5/14

### Background and rationale

Article 22 on Effectiveness Evaluation sets out that the Conference of the Parties shall evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention beginning no later than six years after entry into force and periodically thereafter. It also provides that the Conference of the Parties shall establish arrangements for providing itself with comparable monitoring data.

In its decisions MC-1/9 and MC-2/10, the Conference of the Parties established and extended, respectively, an ad hoc technical expert group on effectiveness evaluation and requested it to submit a report describing a framework for the effectiveness evaluation, including arrangements for monitoring of mercury. The outcome of the work of the ad hoc technical expert group for effectiveness evaluation with respect to the arrangements for the effectiveness evaluation was submitted for consideration by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties.<sup>2</sup>

In decision MC-3/10 on arrangements for the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention, Parties were invited to submit views on indicators for the effectiveness evaluation, as contained in its annex I to the decision, to be compiled by the Secretariat. Further in the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to advance the work by securing services for drafting (i) guidance on monitoring to maintain harmonized, comparable information on mercury levels in the environment, (ii) prepare the Article 21 Synthesis report, and (iii) a report on trade, supply and demand, including mercury waste flows and stocks.

In decision MC-4/11, the Conference of the Parties agreed to begin the first effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and established the Open-Ended Scientific Group to work in accordance with its terms of reference, as contained in annex II to the decision. Further in the same decision, the Conference of the Parties acknowledged the work done on indicators for the effectiveness evaluation since its third meeting and requested the Secretariat to support an intersessional process to refine the list, with a view to providing a final list of indicators for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/MC/COP.3/14 and UNEP/MC/COP.3/14/Add.1.

In decision MC-5/14, the Conference of the Parties agreed to consider outcome of the first effectiveness evaluation of the Convention at its seventh meeting and established the Effectiveness Evaluation Group in accordance with its terms of reference, as contained in annex I to the decision. Further in the same decision, the Conference of the Parties adopted the indicators as set out in annex II to the decision and requested the Secretariat to continue supporting the effectiveness evaluation process.

## Outcomes and activities

### Component 6.1. Effectiveness Evaluation Group

#### OUTCOMES

The Conference of the Parties is to be supported by an Effectiveness Evaluation Group to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention. COP-7 is expected to consider outcome of the first effectiveness evaluation of the Convention.

#### ACTIVITIES

The Secretariat will provide administrative, logistical, programmatic and substantive support for the work and meetings of the EEG, with the assistance of services as necessary, including:

- Prepare and circulate documentation for the meetings (staff costs);
- Prepare and dispatch invitations (staff costs);
- Organize travel of sponsored EEG members, as appropriate;
- Organize virtual meetings (staff costs);
- Provide logistical support;
- Support EEG during and between meetings (staff costs);
- Prepare the reports of the meetings and follow up on guidance provided at the meetings);
- Support EEG in developing effectiveness evaluation report, publish the report and prepare COP-7 document (partly staff costs).

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Meetings of the EEG organized;
- Documentation for the meetings, including meetings reports, available;
- EEG report to COP-7 prepared;
- Number of men/women selected as EEG members.

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Reports and lists of participants of the meetings of the EEG, including a report to COP-7;
- Meeting webpages;
- Feedback from EEG members;
- Lists of participants of the EEG meetings.

### Component 6.2. Open-ended Scientific Group (OESG)

#### OUTCOMES

The Effectiveness Evaluation Group (EEG) and the Conference of the Parties are supported to carry out the first effectiveness evaluation of the Convention with necessary scientific, technical any other information, including on effectiveness evaluation indicators and monitoring information.

#### ACTIVITIES

The Secretariat will continue to provide administrative, logistical, programmatic and substantive support for the work of the OESG, with input from the roster of experts, with the assistance of services as necessary, including:

- Support work of the OESG, with input from the roster of experts, to finalize the scientific reports taking into consideration the comments from Parties and the EEG;
- Support OESG in compiling and analysing any other scientific and technical information as requested by COP and EEG;
- Work closely with the OESG co-Chairs to support coordination of the work of the OESG, with input from the roster of experts, prepare documentation, compile and analysis of data and other functions to advance the work in response to decisions MC-4/11 and 5/14 and other relevant decisions from COP-6;
- Support the publication and visualization of the information in the scientific reports;
- Plan and convene regular online meetings (staff cost);
- Prepare and circulate documentation for the meetings (staff costs);
- Convene a meeting of lead member of small groups on air monitoring, biota monitoring, other abiotic media monitoring, human biomonitoring, emissions and releases, integrated analysis and future vision;
- Prepare progress reports to the EEG;
- Carry out any other activities as decided by COP-6.

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Scientific reports submitted to the EEG and COP as specified in decision MC-4/11 and any relevant COP decisions.

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Documents for the EEG and COP.
- Convention's website.

### Partners

Existing monitoring networks and programmes, UNEP, World Health Organization, other Multilateral Environment Agreements, national and international institutions, non-governmental organizations, etc.,

### Socio-economic aspects

#### Sustainable Development Goals:

The effectiveness evaluation of the Convention addresses the following targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

**Populations in vulnerable situations:** The effectiveness evaluation of the Convention will promote a multi-stakeholder approach to raise awareness of the linkages between mercury exposure, the effects on human health and the environment, and differences in risks and impact on men and women and unique challenges faced by populations vulnerable to mercury exposure. The Secretariat will encourage a balanced representation of men and women during the nomination of experts and for the composition of the Effectiveness Evaluation Group.

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)
<b>6. Effectiveness evaluation</b>												
<b>6.1. Effectiveness Evaluation Group</b>												
Meeting and travel costs; expert support	170,000		<b>170,000</b>				85,000		<b>85,000</b>	85,000		<b>85,000</b>
EEG report to COP and other work	25,000		<b>25,000</b>				25,000		<b>25,000</b>			
<b>Component total</b>	<b>195,000</b>		<b>195,000</b>				<b>110,000</b>		<b>110,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>		<b>85,000</b>
<b>6.2 Trade, supply and demand report</b>												
Expert support												
<b>Component total</b>												
<b>6.3 Other preparatory work and reports to support the effectiveness evaluation</b>												
Expert support	30,000		<b>30,000</b>									
OESG Reports	25,000		<b>25,000</b>									
<b>Component total</b>	<b>55,000</b>		<b>55,000</b>									
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>250,000</b>		<b>250,000</b>				<b>110,000</b>		<b>110,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>		<b>85,000</b>

## Overview of resources

<b>Budget</b>	<b>General trust fund</b>	<b>Special trust fund</b>	<b>Total contribution</b>
2024-2025 approved	231,500	65,000	296,500
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	250,000		250,000
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	110,000	85,000	195,000

## Activity 7. National Reporting

### Budget

General Trust Fund       Special Trust Fund

### Reference

**UNEP/MC/COP.6/15:** National reporting (Article 21): second short national reports  
**UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/20:** Report on the second short national reports under Article 21 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury  
**UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/21:** Updated guidance for completing the national reporting format

### Mandate

**Convention:** Articles 21, 23.5, 15.4(b), 22.3(b)  
**COP decision(s):** MC-1/8, MC-3/13, MC-4/8, MC-5/13

### Background and rationale

Article 21 on Reporting sets out that each Party shall report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of this Convention, and on the effectiveness of such measures and the possible challenges in meeting the objective of the Convention. At its first meeting, the Conference decided upon the reporting format and the timing of national reports. Accordingly, Parties are to report on a biennial basis on the four questions marked by an asterisk in the reporting format, and every four years to the full reporting format, that is to all forty-three questions. Work, on the second full national report, encompassing the reporting period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024, and to be submitted by 31 December 2025 and third short national report encompassing the period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2026, and to be submitted by 31 December 2027 is included in the current work program.

The Conference of the Parties draws on the national reports in its reviews and evaluations of the implementation of the Convention (Article 23), and the Implementation and Compliance Committee (Article 15) may consider issues on the basis of the reports. Further, the national reports may be drawn from for the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention (Article 22).

Parties use the Online Reporting Tool developed by the Secretariat to submit their reports. The Secretariat stores, analyses and manages all data reported by Parties based on the relevant provisions and related decisions. The Secretariat engages and communicates with Parties on issues related to reporting in order to fulfil the provisions of the Convention and related decisions. The Secretariat also supports Parties in their obligation to report through the development of draft reporting guidance, as well as information and training sessions. The reporting rates for the past three reporting periods remain high, noting the increase in the number of Parties since the first reporting cycle. The Secretariat aims to support Parties to maintain this strong record of reporting for subsequent reporting cycles.

All complete submitted national reports are available on the Convention website. The Secretariat makes the information accessible and comparable for implementation and compliance purposes.

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## Outcomes and activities

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### Component 7.1. Process and analyse national reports on measures taken by Parties

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(Reporting Period: 01 January 2021 – 31 December 2024, for submittal by 31 December 2025 for COP-7 review)

#### OUTCOMES

The Conference of the Parties is fully enabled to keep under continuous review and evaluation the implementation of the Convention, based on the responses submitted in the 2025 full national reports submitted by Parties on the measures taken by Parties to implement the provisions of the Convention for the second full reporting period. The Implementation and Compliance Committee is fully informed of the response submitted in the national reports for this reporting period, for its consideration of issues at the planned Committee meetings in 2026 and 2027 to promote implementation and review compliance with the provisions of the Convention. The Effectiveness Evaluation Group is fully informed of the measures, effectiveness and challenges reported by Parties in developing the first effectiveness evaluation report to be considered at COP-7.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Process the second full national reports submitted by 31 December 2025 for the 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2024 reporting period, which includes follow-up for completeness and clarity and support to Parties that have not reported by the deadline as required (staff costs);
- Analyse the responses submitted for the second full national report (staff costs);
- Develop COP-7 report on the measures taken by Parties, their reported effectiveness and reported challenges in meeting the objective of the Convention, for the consideration by the Conference of the Parties, for the reporting period, and follow-up any decisions COP-6 may take in this regard (staff costs).
- Develop reports to the Implementation and Compliance Committee and the Effectiveness Evaluation Group on the responses received for the second full reports, for consideration by the respective bodies for the reporting period, and their report to the Conference of the Parties.
- Support Parties as needed to clarify information needed for the completion of national reports for the reporting period (staff cost).
- Analyse the outcome of reported efforts (e.g. as contained in MIAs, national plans, national inventories etc).

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Submitted 2025 full national reports for the reporting period are processed, analysed and published;
- COP is fully informed on measures Parties are taking and their effectiveness, to keep implementation under review;
- ICC and EEG are fully informed on relevant responses on measures, effectiveness and challenges reported by Parties in their second full national reports.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Secretariat report to COP-7;
- Secretariat report to ICC and EEG;
- ICC and EEG reports to COP-7;
- Complete and published national reports are available on the Minamata Convention website.

## Component 7.2. Ongoing management of information contained in national reports

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**OUTCOMES**

The Secretariat is fully enabled to store, analyse and manage the data and information contained in the national reports submitted through the Online Reporting Tool to ensure accurate recording of information, sound safeguarding of information, collating and comparing of information for analysis, as well as populate information dashboards for status overviews.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Maintain and service the Online Reporting Tool for Parties to submit national reports, related notifications and reports, and provide support to Parties in the use of the Online Reporting Tool.
- Improve data management of external files and links that are attached or submitted as part of the national reports.
- Continue to improve the interactive dashboard that draws from the national reports contained in the Online Reporting Tool.
- Improve on the visualizations drawn from the responses submitted in national reports and related information to inform on the status of implementation and achievements of the Convention.
- Update the Online Reporting Tool for the third short national reports if needed based on relevant decisions taken at COP-6.

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- User-friendly access to submit national reports and other required information in the Online Reporting Tool via the national focal point;
- Accurate recording and storing of information of national reports submitted by Parties;
- Collating of information into various relevant dashboards;
- Collating and analysis of information into visualizations for status overviews;
- Parties and stakeholders have user-friendly access to key information.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Online Reporting Tool fully functional on the Minamata Convention website;
- Information and guidance on how to use the Online Reporting Tool available on the website;
- Dashboard and visualisations available on the website and utilised in various reports by the Secretariat to support COP, ICC, and EEG considerations.

## Component 7.3. Enhance Parties' capacity on national reporting

### OUTCOMES

Parties' ability to collate and have available quality and relevant data to inform on their measures to implement the Convention, on the effectiveness of the measures, and on challenges in meeting the objective of the Convention, are enhanced for national reporting purposes under Article 21, but also to inform assessments, including the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention under Article 22, as well as to review progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

### ACTIVITIES

- Keep the guidance on completing the national reports updated based on relevant COP-6 decisions that may affect reporting information and prepare for formal dissemination.
- Translate the national reporting guidance and continue training Parties on the use of the guidance to support and enhance their ability to collect and collate the information at the national level required to complete national reports under Article 21, including drawing on lessons-learned on measures implemented, their effectiveness and challenges encountered as per the submitted short and full reports of the past reporting cycles.
- Engage Parties on enhancing their national reporting to inform assessments, including the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention under Article 22.
- Develop additional information tools, as required to clarify information sought to inform the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention as per Article 21.
- Develop additional information tools required to clarify information sought for other assessments.
- Prepare for the launch of the third short national report by e.g. uploading updated training materials.
- Conduct online training sessions to support Parties to complete their third short national reports.
- Facilitate submission of reports through timely and regular communication with national focal points and social media announcements.

### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Reporting guidance updated for use;
- Parties are fully informed and supported on information required to submit complete and timely national reports;
- Information product(s) to enhance national reporting for information to be of good use also for Article 22 (effectiveness evaluation) and other assessments.

### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Reporting guidance available to Parties on the website;
- Training opportunities on reporting guidance indicated on the website;
- Information product for enhancing information availability and quality for Article 22, and potentially other assessments.

### Partners

WHO, ILO, InforMEA, UNSSC, Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres

### Socio-economic aspects

**Sustainable Development Goals:** National reporting under the Convention will contribute directly to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Contributions will be made to the following targets:

- Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

- Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)
<b>7. National reporting under the Minamata Convention</b>												
<b>7.1. Process and analyse national reports</b>												
Expert support to ascertain outcomes of national efforts	35,000	15,000	50,000				25,000		25,000			
<b>Component total</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>				<b>25,000</b>		<b>25,000</b>			
<b>7.2. Ongoing management of information contained in national reports</b>												
ORT maintenance and improvements	30,000		30,000				25,000		25,000			
Update dashboard, interface and database	10,000		10,000				5,000		5,000			
<b>Component total</b>	<b>40,000</b>		<b>40,000</b>				<b>30,000</b>		<b>30,000</b>			
<b>7.3. Enhance Parties' capacity on national reporting</b>												
Update training tools on reporting	25,000		25,000				16,000		16,000			
Expert support to enhance reporting capacity	5,000	15,000	20,000					12,000	12,000			
<b>Component total</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>				<b>16,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>28,000</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>105,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>135,000</b>				<b>71,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>83,000</b>			

**Overview of resources**

<b>Budget</b>	<b>General trust fund</b>	<b>Special trust fund</b>	<b>Total contribution</b>
2024-2025 approved	<b>125,000</b>		<b>125,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	<b>135,000</b>		<b>135,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	<b>83,000</b>		<b>83,000</b>

# Fact sheet D. Knowledge and information management, and outreach

## Activity 8. Publications

### Budget

General Trust Fund

Special Trust Fund

### Reference

N/A

### Mandate

**Convention:** Articles 17, 18 and 24

### Background and rationale

This activity ensures that core texts, information materials, guidance, e-publications and other assets of the Minamata Convention work are available to Parties in an accessible and user-friendly way.

The role of these publications and e-publications in enhancing the availability and exchange of information reflects the Secretariat's function to assist Parties as an information hub related to the implementation of the Convention, and as a facilitator of the community of best practices on environmentally sound management of mercury and its compounds.

The production of supplementary materials like infographics, briefings, and brochures is aimed at raising public awareness to broader audiences with an informational purpose, and with the added value of its inclusion in communication packages.

In addition to core publications, voluntary funding is sought for additional texts and materials to better promote knowledge and public awareness. These additional resources are closely aligned with the donor recognition practices of the Secretariat and the operational plan for ensuring donor visibility, through the appropriate use of written acknowledgements, donor logos, etc.

In keeping with principles of sustainability and efficiency, the Secretariat fosters the design, production and promotion of digital publications. When appropriate, some copies of a printing document that, for example, adds value, at a major event like the meeting of Conference of the Parties, might be shared with participants at the venue.

## Outcomes and activities

### Component 8.1. Publications

#### OUTCOMES

The publications and e-publications support the information required for the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, further assisting Parties in their work with other national partners and stakeholders from academic, civil society and business organizations. Furthermore, the publications will promote the understanding of vulnerabilities to mercury exposure faced by women, children, Indigenous Peoples, and also local communities.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Draft the Minamata Convention publications guidelines based on UNEP and UN policies and standards (staff costs).
- Publish core guidance documents including design, translation and integration into other outreach tools.
- Prepare other supporting information materials like insights, briefings, fact sheets, and brochures to help understand the highlights from publications and scientific products.
- Explore new interactive ways to promote and share publications to expand their scope and accessibility (subject to the availability of funding).

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Minamata Convention publications guidelines designed and translated;
- Guidance and other documents published and disseminated online;
- Other information material produced and shared through the website and social media platforms.

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Publications available on the Minamata Convention website;
- Minamata Convention documents distributed digitally at major Minamata Convention and other events;
- Number of publications downloaded from the website;
- Number of support materials published and shared through the website and social media platforms.

#### Partners

UNOG, UNEP Communication Division (Nairobi), UNEP Regional Offices, Geneva Environment Network, other UN agencies and MEAs as relevant.

#### Socio-economic aspects

**Sustainable Development Goals:** Enhancing communication under the Minamata Convention will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages; Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; and Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

**Integrated Approach:** Mainstreaming and the development of partnerships rely upon a higher level of stakeholder awareness of the importance of the implementation of the Minamata Convention in general. The development and dissemination of appropriate publications – including updated versions of the convention texts – is fundamental to this.

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)
<b>8.1 Publications</b>												
Publications including design and translation	15,000	15,000	30,000				15,000	10,000	25,000			
Information materials - insights, briefings, fact sheets and brochures	10,000	10,000	20,000				10,000	10,000	20,000			
New interactive ways to promote and share publications				12,500	12,500	25,000				12,500	12,500	25,000
<b>Component total</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>25,000</b>

## Overview of resources

Budget	General trust fund	Special trust fund	Total contribution
2024-2025 approved	50,000	25,000	75,000
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	50,000	25,000	75,000
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	45,000	25,000	70,000

## Activity 9. Communication, outreach and public awareness

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### Budget

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 General Trust Fund Special Trust Fund

### Reference

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N/A

### Mandate

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**Convention:** Articles 17, 18 and 24

### Background and rationale

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The Secretariat is tasked with raising awareness of the Convention through strategic communication and outreach. The Secretariat prepares strategic communication plans to address public awareness through available channels and resources, namely the main website, social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Bluesky, Threads, WhatsApp and YouTube), email broadcast newsletters and media engagement. In addition, communication plans include building synergistic efforts with relevant partners, in particular UNEP, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Geneva Environment Network and other MEAs. The ultimate goal is to amplify the message and place the Minamata Convention implementation in the context of a broader environment and sustainability agenda that covers the three planetary crises targeted by the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Activities to this end constitute a cornerstone of Parties' implementation efforts. The longer-term sustainability of these endeavours is improved when societies are aware and informed of the importance of reducing mercury use. Understanding of vulnerabilities to mercury exposure faced by women, children, Indigenous Peoples, and also local communities, is further promoted.

The upcoming strategy incorporates highlighted campaigns such as the Convention's anniversary (16 August), International Women's Day (8 March), International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May), World Environment Day (5 June) as the major UNEP international day celebration, and other relevant international days. Particular attention will be given to the Secretariat's participation in major events, support to mercury-related meetings of Parties and other MEAs, and other opportunities that can maximize our visibility and engagement in the broader environmental agenda. In the second year of the biennium, the corresponding resources will be dedicated to planning the communication campaign for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-7).

## Outcomes and activities

### Component 9.1. Communication, outreach and public awareness

#### OUTCOMES

Raised awareness amongst COP participants, government delegates, stakeholders from academic, civil society and business organizations, and other interested individuals amongst the general public, concerning the environmentally sound management of mercury and its compounds.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Define strategic communication plans for specific campaigns and ensure consistent and tailored outreach to broader audiences, like related to COP-7, the Convention's anniversary, International observances (staff costs);
- Prepare content and essential narrative to raise public awareness and convey tailored messages to segmented audiences (staff costs);
- Design special outreach products like videos, photos, newsletters, social media cards, and infographics;
- Build partnerships with strategic colleagues and agencies, like the UNEP communication division, chemicals and waste cluster, the Geneva Environment Network (GEN), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Global Mercury Partnership (GMP), BRS and other MEAs (staff costs);
- Develop the Minamata Convention social media avenues and platforms to ensure regular messaging to expand the audience of stakeholders and the interested general public (staff costs);
- Ensure a visible Minamata Convention presence at events relevant to the broader environmental agenda, including the MEAs COPs, UNEA, etc. For the Minamata Convention COPs, coordinate outreach activities to promote special events and ensure they can be accessible to broader audiences through digital means (staff costs);
- For COP-7 organize: COP-specified webpage, social media, media engagement, requests for interviews with participants and Secretariat staff, video production, photo coverage, ENB reporting services, daily newsletters for participants, venue signage and branding, and media and publications stand.
- Use the necessary tools to materialize communication plans.

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Higher level of awareness and understanding of, and interest in the environmentally sound management of mercury and its compounds while addressing human health and environmental impacts amongst stakeholders and broader audiences;
- News stories, social media campaigns and relevant communication package materials are disseminated through digital means and available on the website and social media platforms in an effective and timely manner;
- Partners supporting and amplifying the Minamata Convention communication campaigns;
- COP-7 media and communication coverage.

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- The Minamata Convention website and social media channels are updated;
- Partners' websites and digital campaigns include or repost Minamata Convention information products;
- Metrics of the Minamata Convention website usage and performance;
- Number of media stories mentioning or covering the Convention in the mainstream media (media monitoring).

## Partners

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UNEP including Communication Division (Nairobi), UNEP Regional Offices, MEAs (in particular chemicals and waste conventions), and the Global Mercury Partnership (GMP), the GEF, Geneva Environment Network (GEN), other UN agencies (WHO and ILO) and MEAs as relevant.

## Socio-economic aspects

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**Sustainable Development Goals:** Enhancing communication under the Minamata Convention will contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages; Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns and Goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. .

**Gender mainstreaming:** Support in the generation of informative material that addresses the severe impact of mercury exposure on women and their role in the implementation of the Convention and its dissemination through the website and social media. Prepare a dedicated communication campaign to promote gender activities.

**Integrated Approach:** Mainstreaming and the development of partnerships rely upon a higher level of stakeholder awareness of the importance of the implementation of the Minamata Convention in general.

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)
<b>9.1. Communication, outreach and public awareness</b>												
Strategic communication	32,000	20,000	<b>52,000</b>				32,000	20,000	<b>52,000</b>			
ENB coverage at COP		20,000	<b>20,000</b>					20,000	<b>20,000</b>			
Social media tools and licenses	2,000	2,000	<b>4,000</b>				2,000	2,000	<b>4,000</b>			
<b>Component total</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>76,000</b>				<b>34,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>76,000</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>76,000</b>				<b>34,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>76,000</b>			

## Overview of resources

Budget	General trust fund	Special trust fund	Total contribution
2024-2025 approved	<b>76,000</b>		<b>76,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	<b>76,000</b>		<b>76,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	<b>76,000</b>		<b>76,000</b>

## Activity 10. Digital strategy

### Budget

General Trust Fund

Special Trust Fund

### Reference

**UNEP/MC/COP.6/19:** Knowledge management and digitalization to support Parties to the Minamata Convention

**UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/26:** Minamata Exchange Platform

### Mandate

**Convention:** Articles 17, 18 and 24

**COP decision(s):** MC-5/16

### Background and rationale

The Secretariat has started to seize digital transformation opportunities in data, processes, and organization of work. This includes creating a new, data-driven website, a fully-fledged reporting system for Parties' use, and organizing intersessional work of the Convention online. The UN Secretary-General has laid out the modernization and upgrading of ways of work in his "Data Strategy for Action by Everyone, Everywhere". Further, the United Nations Environment Programme has included "Digital Transformation" as new enabling subprogrammes in its Medium-Term Strategy (2022–2025) in response, so as to harnessing data to tackle the triple planetary crises of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss. Both the UN Secretary-General's efforts, and those of UNEP seek to create internal capacity for digitalization and increase the digital literacy of staff as a way to serve UN Member States better. Digital solutions will be increasingly used within the Minamata Convention too, not only in communication, raising public awareness, knowledge management and capacity building, but also as a way to support implementation of and compliance with the Convention provisions, to ensure the overall effectiveness of the Convention to achieve its objective.

In 2023 the Secretariat prepared a digital strategy, aiming at guiding the work of the Secretariat in expanding and strengthening the digital ecosystem, building partnerships, and enhancing governance and innovation. At COP-5, Parties welcomed the digital strategy to guide the work of the Secretariat in the upcoming years, requesting the Secretariat to prioritize relevant activities to implement the strategy in the programmes of work and budgets for the following bienniums.

Effective knowledge management is a cornerstone of the Convention. It allows information exchange among Parties to support their implementation efforts at national and regional level, including lessons learned through collaboration. The Secretariat's digital strategy aims at increasing this capacity and fostering its monitoring.

Article 17 defines the Secretariat as having a pivotal role in the information exchange procedures and mechanisms to facilitate implementation of the Convention, effectively serving as a centralized hub for collecting, repackaging, translating if necessary and providing access to information relevant to the implementation of the Convention.

The Secretariat maintains a digital presence through its website, <https://minamataconvention.org>, which serves as the main source of information for the public but also as a resource for the Parties to the

Convention and stakeholders, industry, civil society, and the scientific community. This activity aims to strengthen the Secretariat's functioning and impact.

See also fact sheet C for activity 7 dealing with data reported by the Parties and the online reporting system.

All the mentioned digital platforms need to be updated, maintained and continuously enhanced to maximize their usefulness to the Parties.

## Outcomes and activities

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### Component 10.1. Digital strategy

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#### OUTCOMES

Continue implementing the digital strategy welcomed at COP-5 based on three pillars: (1) digital ecosystem, (2) building partnership and digital literacy, and (3) governance and innovation, by showing clear progress from the proposed activities of continuous improvement of the Convention website, the digital repository of publications in support of Article 17, the digitization of submissions, the Convention's taxonomy, an information exchange platform, online meetings and e-learning proposals.

#### ACTIVITIES

##### Website improvement and maintenance

- Keep content updated in 3 working languages (English, French and Spanish) and official COP documents in all 6 UN languages, including decisions (staff costs).
- Website improvement and maintenance to ensure a good user experience and accessibility standards are maintained over time.
- Update thematic sections to incorporate data from national reports to support the effectiveness evaluation process.
- Enhance semantic relationships and content classification to boost data-driven processes and better support the Parties and other stakeholders in gathering information according to their needs.
- Prepare a monitoring process to get statistical insights (staff costs).

##### Website hosting

- Web hosting on the UN cloud with a scalable solution to accommodate increasing traffic and content growth.

##### Minamata Exchange Platform

- Building on the digital strategy, design and develop a platform to facilitate structured and inclusive information exchange. This platform is aimed at helping build the capacity of Parties and stakeholders by providing centralized access to scientific, technical, legal and implementation-related knowledge. It will support cooperation, data interoperability, and informed decision-making, and is envisioned to be operationalized in a scalable, cost-efficient way.

##### Digitize Secretariat's submissions (subject to the availability of resources)

- The Secretariat aims to digitize submissions from Parties, beginning with information on national focal points (as stated in Article 17.4). National Focal Points serve as the main points of contact for information exchange under the Convention, and Parties are required to nominate NFP through the use of a dedicated form. By establishing a digital method to obtain structured data on any changes to the contact details of NFPs, with a clear and efficient workflow, this initiative would greatly assist in avoiding errors when copying information. Moreover, it would enable the Secretariat to promptly and accurately update contact data across all relevant distribution lists and the website.

**Convention's taxonomy** (subject to the availability of resources)

- Develop a data-driven taxonomy structure to facilitate the organization of knowledge, as well as the analysis, comparison, and retrieval of data on mercury. This effort will also help in having an harmonized translation of relevant terms of the Convention.
- Taxonomies are the first step in achieving structured knowledge and data management based on a semantic framework. These frameworks serve as fundamental building blocks for intelligent search functions, multilingual approaches to content, and automated content tagging.

**Training of a generative AI model** (subject to the availability of resources)

- This activity will explore the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to assist the Secretariat in synthesizing data and identifying trends across national reports submitted under Article 21. With over 100 Parties reporting through structured and narrative formats, AI can help extract common implementation challenges, highlight good practices, and flag areas needing further guidance. The pilot will focus on using AI to group responses thematically, suggest summary insights, and support data visualization efforts, thereby enhancing the utility of reporting data for Parties, the Conference of the Parties, and the effectiveness evaluation process.

**Online meetings** (staff costs)

- Organize a new Minamata Online season to keep building knowledge among Parties and other stakeholders on the Convention's provisions, policy and scientific aspects.
- Design broadcasted online side events at COP-7.
- Build knowledge and skills in-house on platforms and run digital events to better provide support to Parties.
- Support delegates from developing country Parties to connect to meetings to diminish the digital divide.

**E-learning** (subject to the availability of resources) – with a specific focus on developing country Parties

- Prepare e-learning material and interactive courses jointly with the chemicals cluster and InforMEA, seeking for synergies on themes related to the implementation of the Convention, such as the interlinkages between biodiversity, climate change and pollution.

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- The website and related platforms provide current, relevant and accessible information;
- Minamata Convention website and related knowledge management platforms updated, and relevant information shared in a timely manner;
- Clearing-house mechanism initial phase implemented;
- Online meetings prepared an organized to support Parties;

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Minamata Convention website regularly updated and effectively maintained;
- Increased number of access to the Minamata Convention website and the knowledge management platform;
- Direct feedback from users;
- Other related platforms updated and integrated with the website database;
- Digital repository accessible by users;
- Number of online meetings and survey to participants;

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**Partners**

UNEP, specially the InforMEA initiative and the World Environment Situation Room (WESR); MEAS (in particular chemical and waste conventions), the GEF, WHO, ILO and other UN agencies and MEAs as relevant.

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## Socio-economic aspects

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**Sustainable Development Goals:** Enhancing communication under the Minamata Convention will contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages; Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; and Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

**Integrated Approach:** Mainstreaming and the development of partnerships rely upon a higher level of stakeholder awareness of the importance of the implementation of the Minamata Convention in general.

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)
<b>10.1 Digital strategy</b>												
Website improvement and maintenance	20,000	25,000	<b>45,000</b>				20,000	25,000	<b>45,000</b>			
Website hosting	2,500	2,500	<b>5,000</b>				2,500	2,500	<b>5,000</b>			
Minamata Exchange Platform	20,000		<b>20,000</b>				20,000		<b>20,000</b>			
Digitize Secretariat's submissions				25,000	20,000	<b>45,000</b>				25,000	20,000	<b>45,000</b>
Convention's taxonomy for web semantics				25,000	20,000	<b>45,000</b>				25,000	20,000	<b>45,000</b>
Training of a generative AI model				35,000	30,000	<b>65,000</b>				35,000	30,000	<b>65,000</b>
e-learning				15,000	15,000	<b>30,000</b>				15,000	15,000	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Component total</b>	<b>42,500</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>42,500</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>42,500</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>42,500</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>85,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>

## Overview of resources

Budget	General trust fund	Special trust fund	Total contribution
2024-2025 approved	<b>70,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>255,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	<b>70,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>255,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	<b>70,000</b>	<b>185,000</b>	<b>255,000</b>

## Fact sheet E. Overall management

### Activity 11. Executive direction and management

#### Budget

General Trust Fund       Special Trust Fund

#### Reference

**UNEP/MC/COP.6/23:** Programme of work and budget: proposed operational budgets for the two funding scenarios for the biennium 2026–2027

#### Mandate

**Convention:** Article 24

**COP decision(s):** MC-1/15, MC-2/12; MC-3/12; MC-4/2 and MC-4/13; MC-5/20

**Financial rules and rules of procedure; relevant decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP.**

#### Background and rationale

This activity provides for the coherent management, coordination, administration and delivery mechanism required for the implementation of the programme of work of the Convention as well as the efficient management and administration of the Secretariat's staff and financial resources, by addressing the needs of the Convention, in conformity with applicable United Nations (UN) rules and regulations, policies and procedures as well as UN business practices.

This activity groups together all staff travel costs related to the programme of work activities in all the other fact sheets and that are funded under the general trust fund.

#### Outcomes and activities

### Component 11.1 Overall management

#### OUTCOMES

This component aims at the management and coordination of the work under the Convention both externally with relevant stakeholders and internally within the Secretariat. It encompasses the effective and efficient delivery of Secretariat functions, ensuring coherence of the mandated procedures and processes under the Convention and overseeing the implementation of the approved programme of work.

#### ACTIVITIES (staff costs)

- Deliver the meetings of the Convention;
- Hold internal and external consultations and coordination;
- Build relations with donors for the Convention and for the Specific International Programme, as well as with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat and GEF Council and Assembly;

- Deliver outputs envisaged under the programme of work for 2026-27.

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Delivery of meeting of the Conference of the Parties and their bodies;
- Resources leveraged to support national implementation;
- Implementation and delivery of technical assistance activities in collaboration with relevant partners;
- Openness and transparency of the Secretariat and its activities through web posting of the Secretariat's reports;
- Programme of work delivered by the Secretariat;
- Secretariat staff trained and working efficiently.

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- List of participants, meeting documents, reports and decisions of COP and subsidiary bodies;
- UNEP financial statements and overview on contributions related to the Convention posted on the Convention's websites;
- Webinars and workshops proceedings posted on the Convention's website;
- Reports posted on the Convention's website;
- Programme of work and budget approved by COP;
- Smooth, collaborative and timely implementation of mandated activities, in conformity with applicable rules and regulations, policies, procedures and practices.

## Component 11.2. Staff travel

### OUTCOMES

The staff of the Secretariat takes part, as appropriate, in relevant international processes to represent the Convention and the Secretariat cooperates actively with partners to implement the programme of work of the Convention and attain its objectives. Considering the environmental footprint and cost efficiency, the Secretariat will attend meetings online in as much as possible and undertake travel when needed.

### ACTIVITIES

- Participation of staff in missions to support the implementation of the Convention;
- Participation of staff in the meetings of the various bodies of the Convention;
- Participation of staff in meetings and activities of other organizations in the chemicals and waste cluster, the sustainable development agenda, and in areas of relevance to the Convention;
- Participation in meetings of the GEF Council, the GEF Assembly, the UN Environment Assembly, and other such key environment and sustainable development fora; and
- Travel of the Executive Secretary and other staff members as required for bilateral and partner meetings.

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Secretariat participation at relevant meetings and conferences;
- Effective cooperation with partners and input is provided to ongoing processes as necessary;
- The Minamata Convention is part of relevant international processes.

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Staff travel reports;
- Reports on international cooperation activities.

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## Partners

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UNEP and UNEP regional offices, as well as other organizations in the UN system; Global Environment Facility (GEF), civil society, industry, academia; other MEAs, Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres.

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## Socio-economic aspects

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**Sustainable Development Goals:** The activity will address all three dimensions of the Sustainable Development: environmental, economic and social. Among other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it will support the implementation of SDG No. 3 on ensuring healthy lives (target 3.9: by 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination), SDG No. 5 on gender equality, SDG No. 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns (target 12.4: by 2020 achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their lifecycle and minimizing their adverse impacts on human health and the environment); it will also support SDG No. 1 on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere, SDG No.16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, etc.

**Integrated Approach:** The activity will be supportive of the integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, in particular in relation to mainstreaming of chemicals and wastes into sustainable development processes, as provided for in the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its first session in 2014 and in 2015 on the Agenda 2030 and the 17 SDGs.

## Resource requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)
<b>11. Executive direction and management</b>												
<b>11.1. Overall management</b>												
Overall management	2,714,996	2,703,946	<b>5,418,942</b>				2,679,996	2,668,946	<b>5,348,942</b>			
Strategic external and internal consultations and coordination	10,000	10,000	<b>20,000</b>				10,000	10,000	<b>20,000</b>			
<b>Component total</b>	<b>2,724,996</b>	<b>2,713,946</b>	<b>5,438,942</b>				<b>2,689,996</b>	<b>2,678,946</b>	<b>5,368,942</b>			
<b>11.2 Staff travel</b>												
	85,811	103,000	<b>188,811</b>				82,061	100,000	<b>182,061</b>			
<b>Component total</b>	<b>85,811</b>	<b>103,000</b>	<b>188,811</b>				<b>82,061</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>182,061</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,810,807</b>	<b>2,816,946</b>	<b>5,627,753</b>				<b>2,772,057</b>	<b>2,778,946</b>	<b>5,551,003</b>			

## Overview of resources

Budget	General trust fund	Special trust fund	Total contribution
2024-2025 approved	<b>5,217,637</b>		<b>5,217,637</b>
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	<b>5,627,753</b>		<b>5,627,753</b>
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	<b>5,551,003</b>		<b>5,551,003</b>

## Activity 12. International cooperation and coordination

### Budget

General Trust Fund       Special Trust Fund

### Reference

UNEP/MC/COP.5/21: International cooperation and coordination

### Mandate

**Convention:** Articles 16, 23, 24

**COP decision(s):** MC-1/11, MC-3/11, MC-4/9, MC-4/1, MC-5/18, MC-5/19

### Background and rationale

International cooperation and coordination with relevant bodies aim to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention by ensuring consistency and coherence, sharing experiences and approaches, and increasing the efficient use of resources and expertise.

Article 16 of the Convention states that the Conference of the Parties, in considering health-related issues or activities, should: (a) Consult and collaborate with the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate; and (b) Promote cooperation and exchange of information with the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate.

Article 23 of the Convention sets out that the Conference of Parties shall also cooperate, where appropriate, with competent international organisations and inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies.

Article 24 indicates that the Secretariat shall coordinate as appropriate with secretariats of relevant international bodies, particularly with other chemicals and waste conventions.

In decision MC-4/12, the COP requested, *inter alia*, the Secretariat to continue gathering knowledge about, raising awareness of and demonstrating, the contribution of the implementation of the Minamata Convention to other relevant international regulations and policies, including those related to pollution, biodiversity and climate change, and to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including possible recommendations, on how the Convention could contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

In decision MC-5-18 the COP requested the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the Secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste 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.

In decision MC-5/19 on enhanced cooperation between the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to continue to cooperate as appropriate on relevant administrative, programmatic, technical assistance and technical matters.

The Science-policy panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution was established by the Intergovernmental Meeting, and it can be expected the COP will establish a close cooperation with the Plenary of the Panel.

## Outcomes and activities

### Component 12.1. Cooperation on the broader sustainable development and environment agenda

#### OUTCOMES

The Secretariat foresees a range of activities which encompass promoting knowledge on mercury issues and the Minamata Convention in the UN system, including at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), bringing Minamata Convention issues into the UN Environment Programme's processes including UNEA, the UNEP Senior Management Team meetings extended to Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA), the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative, as well as to the implementation of the UNEP Programme of Work 2025-2026 and Medium Term Strategy 2026-2029, the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, and participating and contributing to the UN Environment Management Group (EMG).

Furthermore, the Secretariat will cooperate with the secretariats of other MEAs, including Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species, Ramsar Convention, UN Convention to Combat Desertification and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Participate in and contribute to meetings and processes on sustainable development and the environment, including UNEA7 and HLPF (staff costs).
- Contribute to work of other bodies on climate change and biodiversity as contributions from the chemicals and waste cluster and targeted studies to increase the recognition of the contribution the Convention makes to implementation of global goals on biodiversity and climate change and a broader environmental agenda.

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Mercury pollution is addressed in broader sustainable development and environmental agenda in a synergistic manner.
- Publications demonstrating the relevance and contribution of the Minamata Convention to biodiversity

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Reports of relevant meetings and processes.

### Component 12.2. Cooperation within the chemicals and waste cluster

#### OUTCOMES

The Secretariat will continue to promote knowledge of mercury issues in the chemicals and waste cluster, cooperate and collaborate with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and its Secretariat, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and their Secretariat, the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC), the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP), the UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch (including the Special Programme, the Osaka-based International Environmental Technology Centre), the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution (SPP), foster close working relations with the UNEP Regional Offices on chemicals and waste matters, and with the Basel Convention regional and co-ordinating centres, and Stockholm Convention regional and sub-regional centres, cooperate and collaborate with Implementing and Executing agencies and organisations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations dealing with chemicals and waste, as well as the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and its Mercury Group, and other related inter-agency mechanisms. The Secretariat will continue working with the BRS

conventions to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste and the understanding of the contribution the implementation of the Minamata Convention makes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity as well as to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## ACTIVITIES

- Participate in and contribute to meetings within the chemicals and waste cluster, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention COPs, International Conference on Chemicals Management, GFC meetings, SPP meetings, IOMC meetings and GMP, including PAG (staff costs);
- Contribute to initiatives on the sound management of chemicals and waste (staff costs)

### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Mercury pollution is addressed in the international initiatives on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Reports of relevant meetings and processes.
- Reports to the Conference of the Parties.

## Component 12.3. Other cooperation and coordination

### OUTCOMES

The Secretariat will continue its cooperation and coordination with organisations that have areas of common or related interests with the Convention to share experiences and establish synergies, including with the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (the Escazú Agreement ) the Green Customs Initiative, the World Customs Organization, Regional Sea Convention and Action Plans, International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, and potentially others. Moreover, the Secretariat is supporting a broadened engagement of Indigenous Peoples, in line with decision MC-5/1, and women's groups, through the creation of the Indigenous Peoples Platform and its support to the Women's Caucus to identify concrete areas to enhance coordination to support the implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat has also been invited to take part in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG) co-chaired by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

### ACTIVITIES

- Cooperate with relevant organizations, including those mentioned above, to coordinate joint initiatives, participate in relevant meetings and liaise on relevant processes that contribute to the implementation and overall objective of the Convention (staff costs);
- Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, in particular through the Indigenous Peoples Platform, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other relevant processes (staff costs);
- Cooperate with women's groups, including through the Women's Caucus for the Minamata Convention;
- Cooperate with relevant partners in an exploratory analysis of the socio-economic impacts of mercury in the environment (subject to availability of funds).

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Mercury pollution is addressed in a synergistic manner across different organizations and initiatives.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Reports of relevant meetings and processes.

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**Partners**

Various partners including UN agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations.

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**Socio-economic aspects**

**Sustainable Development Goals:** International cooperation and coordination under the Convention addresses the following targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development:

- Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

**Groups disproportionately affected by mercury pollution:** International cooperation activities will give due consideration to populations vulnerable to mercury exposure. Activity 12 will be linked to major groups related activities under Component 14.4 of the programme of work with the objective of promoting a multi-stakeholder approach to raise awareness of the linkages between mercury exposure, the effects on human health and the environment, and differences in risks and impact between men and women.

**Integrated Approach:** All three parts of this activity contribute to catalyzing coordination among relevant stakeholders within Parties, including civil society and private sector, as relevant, for an improved implementation and compliance with the Convention.

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)
<b>12. International cooperation and coordination</b>												
<b>12.1. Cooperation on the broader sustainable development and environment agenda</b>												
Expert support				50,000	50,000	100,000				50,000	50,000	100,000
<b>Component total</b>				<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>				<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
<b>12.2. Cooperation within the chemicals and waste cluster</b>												
<b>12.3. Other cooperation and coordination</b>												
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>				<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>

## Overview of resources

Budget	General trust fund	Special trust fund	Total contribution
2024-2025 approved		100,000	100,000
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario		<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario		<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>

## Activity 13. Financial resources and mechanism

### Budget

General Trust Fund

Special Trust Fund

### Reference

- UNEP/MC/COP.6/9:** Matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to decision MC-5/11 on the review of the financial mechanism
- UNEP/MC/COP.6/10:** Update on matters related to the Global Environment Facility
- UNEP/MC/COP.6/10/Add.1:** Executive summary of the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting
- UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/13:** Report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting
- UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/14:** The ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund: draft strategic positioning and programming directions
- UNEP/MC/COP.6/11:** Overall report on the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance
- UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/15:** Reports of the ninth and tenth meetings of Governing Board of the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance
- UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/16:** Activities of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
- UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/17:** Information on the Global Framework on Chemicals fund
- UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/40:** Draft analysis of expected funding needs and related staffing needs for the Specific International Programme
- UNEP/MC/COP.6/12:** Draft terms of reference for the third review of the financial mechanism
- UNEP/MC/COP.6/13:** Implementation of activities pursuant to decision MC-5/12 and Article 14 on capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer
- UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/18:** Desk study on the overview of environmentally sound alternative technologies under the Minamata Convention on Mercury

### Mandate

**Convention:** Article 13

**COP decision(s):** MC-1/5, MC-1/6, MC-3/7, MC-4/7, MC-5/11, MC-5/12

### Background and rationale

In paragraph 5 of Article 13, on the financial resources and mechanism, the Minamata Convention on Mercury defines a mechanism for the provision of adequate, predictable and timely financial resources to support developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in implementing their obligations under the Convention. According to the Convention, the mechanism includes the Global

Environment Facility Trust Fund and the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance.

### **Financial resources**

Paragraph 1 of Article 13 states each Party undertakes to provide, within its capabilities, resources in respect of those national activities that are intended to implement the Convention, and that financial resources intended to implement the Convention may include domestic funding through relevant policies, development strategies and national budgets, and bilateral and multilateral funding, as well as private sector involvement. In the 2026–2027 biennium, the Secretariat, subject to available resources, will undertake a mapping analysis of current and potential sources of support from bilateral, multilateral, regional and private sector sources, with a particular focus on needs and challenges identified in national reporting and by the Implementation and Compliance Committee. The Secretariat will further promote the exchange of this information among Parties through webinars, regional meetings, case studies, and other communication efforts as appropriate.

In addition to the financial mechanism defined in the Convention and described above, implementation support to countries is provided through (a) the Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening for the Chemicals Cluster as established by the first UN Environment Assembly, and (b) the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund as established at the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5). Both are hosted by the Chemicals and Health Branch, Industry and Economy Division, United Nations Environment Programme.

The Special Programme has concluded eight rounds of applications since its establishment in 2015. The Executive Board of the Special Programme at its Tenth meeting held in March 2025 approved eight projects under the Eighth Round of applications subject to the identification of sufficient funding to support their implementation. The Executive Board also decided to postpone the launch of the Ninth Round of applications due to lack of resources. The Secretariat engages with the Special Programme to ensure that its Executive Board and applicants have full information regarding the Convention and relevant implementation needs. This includes participating on the Special Programme's internal task team as it reviews both submitted and revised applications; participating in its Executive Board meetings to provide updates on the Convention and any needed clarifications; participating in application webinars, as relevant; and providing requested text updates to Special Programme guidance, guidelines, and information resources.

The Executive Board of the Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) Fund approved four regional projects under the First Round of applications that was launched on 1 October 2024 and closed on 31 January 2025. The Secretariat provides feedback on relevant project applications as requested by the GFC Fund Secretariat and participates in meetings of its Executive Board, as well as in joint meetings of the Executive Boards of the Special Programme and the GFC Fund.

In decision MC-5/11, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare draft terms of reference for the third review of the financial mechanism for consideration at COP-6. The Secretariat has prepared draft terms of reference for the third review, which are set out in annex II to document UNEP/MC/COP.6/12. The draft terms of reference build on the terms of reference for the second review of the financial mechanism (decision MC-4/7, annex), with only a few adjustments to the sections entitled "report" and "performance criteria". In developing the draft terms of reference, the Secretariat invited input from the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and from the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance.

### **Global Environment Facility Trust Fund**

The GEF has provided programming support on mercury since the fifth replenishment period. The GEF has provided enabling activity support in the form of Minamata Initial Assessments and artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) National Action Plans and has also supported numerous Parties in meeting their substantive obligations in accordance with the COP's Guidance to the GEF. The Secretariat reviews projects seeking Minamata Convention GEF funding; engages in GEF Council, replenishment, Assembly, and Chemicals and Waste Task Force meetings; provides Convention-related information to GEF agencies as they plan and implement projects; and provides support to Parties as they consider funding sources. In the

biennium 2024–2025, the Secretariat engaged with the GEF Secretariat on knowledge management and the visualization of project results, as well as on the further development of online tools for sharing GEF official documentation and information on project activities in the projects database on the Convention website. This initiative has attracted significant interest from other multilateral environmental agreements. Furthermore, the Secretariat has been engaged in the ninth replenishment of the GEF Trust fund (GEF-9) discussions and has provided comments on initial drafts of the documents on GEF strategic positioning and programming directions.

In the biennium 2026–2027 the Secretariat will continue working with the GEF Secretariat to improve the filtering of projects by agreement, a function that will facilitate data harvesting for different conventions, it also will support database updates and improvements as well as communications on results and impacts of projects funded through the financial mechanism; and will further provide effective input into GEF-9 deliberations.

### **Specific International Programme**

In decision MC-1/6 on the Specific International Programme, the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention decided that the Secretariat hosts the Specific International Programme. The decision also provided guidance on the operations of and duration of the Specific International Programme and the terms of reference of the Programme as set out in the annexes to the decision. At the request of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme has established a trust fund for the Programme and through the Secretariat of the Convention implemented the requested governance arrangements. The Secretariat provides full support to the functioning of the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme, and to the application process, review and appraisal of all applications, implementation of administrative arrangements to make grants available to the successful applicants at the conclusion of each Round. The Secretariat undertakes continuous monitoring, project management follow-up, project closeouts and terminal evaluations. In the 2024–2025 biennium, following the decision of the Governing Board at its Ninth meeting, the Secretariat launched the Fourth Round of applications to the Specific International Programme, reviewed and appraised all eligible applications and facilitated deliberations of the Governing Board on the projects to be funded. Following the Governing Board's decision, the Secretariat worked with the successful applicants to refine their project documents and drafted the project legal agreements. In the 2026–2027 biennium, the Secretariat will continue to provide support and oversight for the implementation of all starting, ongoing and closing projects approved across the four application rounds. The Secretariat will continue including balanced representation of men and women as part of the appraisal and evaluation of projects under the Specific International Programme.

## **Outcomes and activities**

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### **Component 13.1. Financial resources**

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#### **OUTCOMES**

Through this activity the Secretariat supports Parties' more comprehensive view on resources at domestic, bilateral and multilateral level, including private sector funding, to implement the Convention as per paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 13. The Secretariat also seeks to ensure that funds for activities to support the implementation of obligations under the Minamata Convention may be made available to and through other relevant funding sources, including the Special Programme and the Global Framework for Chemicals Fund.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

- **Mapping analysis and awareness of financial flows:** Analyze opportunities for mobilization of domestic, bilateral, multilateral and private sector funding per Article 13 para 1 and consistent with the integrated approach to financing of chemicals and waste, though analysis of relevant flows of financial, substantive and political resources including financing directed through the integrated

programming of the Global Environment Facility and other sources towards climate, deforestation, biodiversity, including as appropriate socioeconomic impacts (subject to availability of resources).

- Support the application rounds, review, and appraisal of projects before the Executive Boards of the Special Programme and the Global Framework for Chemicals Fund (staff costs).

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Mapping analysis of financial flows and opportunities completed;
- Minamata Convention Secretariat input to Special Programme and GFC Fund delivered.

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Report on financial flows and opportunities;
- Meeting and other reports covering matters related to the Special Programme and the GFC Fund.

## Component 13.2. Financial mechanism – Global Environment Facility

### OUTCOMES

Through this activity the Secretariat supports engagement with the GEF Secretariat, the GEF Council, GEF Implementation Agencies, and Parties to support the availability of funds for activities as outlined in the COP Guidance to the Global Environmental Facility passed at COP-1 to support the implementation of Minamata Convention obligations and supplemented by additional guidance in decision MC-5/11.

### ACTIVITIES

- Projects database and impact communications: Implement improvements to projects database, dashboards and maps to visualize projects, incorporating impact analysis of completed and ongoing GEF projects to show environmental results achieved, including as input to GEF-9 future programming strategy, and production of robust communications on these (subject to availability of resources).
- Engage regularly with the GEF CEO, GEF Secretariat, GEF Council members, GEF Implementing Agencies, and countries obtaining/seeking to obtain GEF funding, for political and strategic engagement purposes (staff costs);
- Participate actively in the GEF Chemicals and Waste Task Force to provide political and technical advisory input in programme planning, and for project submissions to the GEF (staff costs);
- Review and comment on submitted projects, provide input into GEF Independent Evaluation Office program and project reviews, and provide input in relevant STAP meetings (staff costs);

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Relevant COP decisions implemented;
- GEF portfolio on mercury remains responsive to COP guidance;
- Timely and required input delivered to the GEF Secretariat, the Chemicals and Waste Task Force, and other stakeholders;
- Projects database and maps integrated on the Convention's website.

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Meeting and other reports covering matters related to the GEF;
- Convention website, publications and communications;

## Component 13.3. Financial mechanism – Specific International Programme

### OUTCOMES

Through this activity the Secretariat provides the full secretariat functions required to run the Specific International Programme (SIP) to enable the disbursement of funds by the grant-making Programme to successful Party applicants, so as to support national capacity building and technical assistance to meet

Minamata Convention obligations; closely monitors the implementation of SIP-funded activities; ensures sound reporting on such activities; and communicates on results achieved.

**ACTIVITIES (for all the activities full support can be provided by the Secretariat subject to an offer by a Party of a JPO)**

- Provide full secretariat support to the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme (staff costs);
- Provide full secretariat support to the application rounds of the Specific International Programme (launch round, produce guidelines, support Q&A during the project application process, review all applications received by the mandatory application deadline, prepare appraisals for the Governing Board's decision) (staff costs);
- Provide full secretariat support to administer the Specific Trust Fund (staff costs);
- Provide full secretariat implementation support to projects approved by the Governing Board for funding (programmatic and administrative support to finalize project documentation in preparation for the signature of the legal agreements, disbursement of funds, monitoring of implementation, closure of completed projects, evaluation of completed projects) (staff costs);
- Raise funds for the Specific Trust Fund (staff costs);
- Communicate to donors and potential donors and other partners for funding opportunities (staff costs);
- Undertake donor recognition and reporting (staff costs).

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Meetings of Governing Board organized;
- Application rounds implemented;
- Timely and complete Specific Trust Fund reports provided to Governing Board and Conference of the Parties;
- Legal arrangements completed for approved projects;
- Completed projects successfully closed out in reasonable timeframe.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Meeting and other reports and documents covering matters related to the Specific International Programme;
- Financial report on the Specific International Programme, and audits/evaluations;
- Convention website, publications and communications;
- Terminal evaluations and reviews.

## Partners

Donor and recipient countries, bilateral and multilateral aid agencies, international financial institutions, private sector entities, the GEF Secretariat, Chemicals and Health Branch of UNEP, Secretariat of the Special Programme and of the Global Framework on Chemicals, GEF Implementing Agencies and IOMC organizations.

## Socio-economic aspects

**Sustainable Development Goals:** Implementing the programme of work activity on financial resources and mechanisms addresses the following targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

- Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly

reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

**Populations in vulnerable situations:** The capacity-building and technical assistance programme of the Minamata Convention will give due consideration to the differential needs of, and risks and impacts on, men and women as well as to unique challenges faced by populations vulnerable to mercury exposure. The programme will promote a multi-stakeholder approach to raise awareness of the linkages between mercury exposure and the effects on human health.

**Integrated Approach:** The financial resources and mechanism of the Minamata Convention advance the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste (UNEP/GC.27/7).

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)
<b>13. Financial resources and mechanism</b>												
<b>13.1. Financial resources</b>												
Review of financial mechanism	30,000		<b>30,000</b>				30,000		<b>30,000</b>			
Mapping analysis and awareness of financial flows				24,000		<b>24,000</b>				24,000		<b>24,000</b>
<b>Component total</b>	<b>30,000</b>		<b>30,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>		<b>24,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>		<b>30,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>		<b>24,000</b>
<b>13.2 Financial mechanism – Global Environment Facility</b>												
Project database and impact communications				20,000		20,000				20,000		20,000
<b>Component total</b>				<b>20,000</b>		<b>20,000</b>				<b>20,000</b>		<b>20,000</b>
<b>13.3 Financial mechanism – Specific International Programme</b>												
<b>Component total</b>												
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>30,000</b>		<b>30,000</b>	<b>44,000</b>		<b>44,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>		<b>30,000</b>	<b>44,000</b>		<b>44,000</b>

## Overview of resources

Budget	General trust fund	Special trust fund	Total contribution
2024-2025 approved		<b>44,000</b>	<b>44,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	<b>30,000</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>74,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	<b>30,000</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>74,000</b>

## Fact sheet F. Legal and policy activities

### Activity 14. Legal and policy activities

#### Budget

General Trust Fund

Special Trust Fund

#### Reference

<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/5:</b>	Implementation of decision MC-5/2 on mercury supply sources and trade
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/7:</b>	Matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to decision MC-5/7 on artisanal and small-scale gold mining
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/13:</b>	Implementation of activities pursuant to decision MC-5/12 and Article 14 on capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/14:</b>	Report on the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, including recommendations
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/17:</b>	Needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities with a view to future work on identifying possible solutions
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/18:</b>	Activities to address health concerns of women and children in the 2026–2027 biennium
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/21:</b>	International cooperation and coordination
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/11:</b>	Provisional guide on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities in the development and implementation of national action plans artisanal and small-scale gold mining
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/23:</b>	Status of implementation of decision MC-5/15 during the 2024-2025 biennium
<b>UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/24:</b>	Report on the needs and priorities of Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, with regard to the effects of mercury on their health, livelihoods, culture and knowledge

#### Mandate

**Convention:** Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 22, 26, 27

#### Background and rationale

##### 14.1: Work programme of the Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC)

The ICC was established to promote implementation of, and review compliance with, all provisions of the Convention. The work programme of the Committee includes activities to be undertaken to promote the implementation of and compliance with the Convention with respect to both individual and systemic issues of implementation and compliance. Based on the examination of these issues, the Committee shall make recommendations to Conference of the Parties, as appropriate. The Secretariat's support to the ICC includes the following activities: development of reports, translation of guidance documents for the consideration by the Conference of the Parties and liaising with Parties concerned by a submission. The organization of

meetings of the Committee in 2027 is covered in Activity 3 above on Implementation and Compliance Committee.

#### **14.2: Legal activities**

Legal activities underpin a variety of the functions of the Secretariat. These include generic as well as Convention-specific legal and policy advice and analysis pertaining to the implementation and development of the Convention; drafting of legal agreements; international cooperation activities on legal and policy matters; and activities pertaining to chemicals and waste-related indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additional legal and policy activities under the Convention, including on SDGs are undertaken in the context of activity 4 on capacity building and technical assistance, and activity 12 on international cooperation and coordination.

#### **14.3: National legislation, trade and enforcement**

Legal and policy activities under the Convention are undertaken in the context of the implementation and compliance with trade related provisions. These include advice on completing the forms required under Article 3 related to trade in mercury, and support cooperation with other MEAs and partners (e.g. European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law, International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, UNEP, Regional Enforcement Network for Chemicals and Waste, World Customs Organization, Green Customs Initiative, INTERPOL) to prevent and combat mercury trade which is not compliant with the Convention.

#### **14.4: Addressing the needs of groups vulnerable to mercury exposure**

The Convention pays particular attention to health concerns, especially in developing countries, resulting from exposure to mercury of populations in vulnerable situations, especially Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, children, and through them future generations.

The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (**COP-5**) adopted decisions relevant to Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women. In decision MC-5/1 (paragraphs 2 and 3) the COP encouraged Parties to support, as appropriate, participation of Indigenous Peoples' organizations, as well as local communities and other relevant stakeholders, in meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and in other related processes and to promote policies that enable Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities, to benefit from, as well as contribute to, the dissemination of information, awareness and education on emissions and releases of mercury, including through the Indigenous Peoples Platform of the Minamata Convention. In decision MC-5/7, paragraph 8, the COP encouraged Parties to work with their respective Indigenous Peoples and local communities with regard to their needs and priorities in relation to the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to support Parties' efforts to raise awareness among Indigenous Peoples and local communities of the risks associated with mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

On women, the COP in decision MC-5/15, welcomed the gender action plan for the Minamata Convention on Mercury and invited Parties and the Secretariat to implement priority activities under the action plan as integrated in the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2024-2025. Its list of priority activities builds on existing commitments embedded in the text of the Minamata Convention and on recent initiatives of the Secretariat and Parties.

The Secretariat is also working on supporting the engagement of women's groups through the women's Caucus for the Minamata Convention.

## Outcomes and activities

### Component 14.1. Work programme of the Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC)

#### OUTCOMES

Activities entrusted by the COP to the Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC) and that the ICC decides to undertake are implemented. The outcome of these activities is expected to be an improved implementation of and compliance with the Convention.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Coordinate within the Secretariat the ICC's intersessional work (staff costs only);
- Support ICC in identifying issues of implementation and compliance, communication with ICC members, organization of meetings (staff costs only);
- Support the ICC in implementing its work programme, and follow up on ICC requests to reach out to Parties;
- Support the ICC in developing its draft programme of work and its report to the COP (staff costs only);
- Follow-up on COP decisions related to the ICC's work (staff costs only).

#### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Assistance for the operation of the ICC is provided to the satisfaction of the ICC and its Chair;
- Support to the ICC for undertaking the activities of its work programme is provided to the satisfaction of the ICC and its Chair.

#### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Feedback from members and the Chair.

### Component 14.2. Legal activities

#### OUTCOMES

The Secretariat's legal operations are undertaken in line with relevant rules and regulations; the Parties are supported in their efforts towards the implementation of the Convention; the legal and policy aspects of the implementation and further development of the Convention are addressed. Progress is made in providing information of relevance to the chemicals and waste-related indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Provide legal and policy advice and analysis pertaining to the implementation and development of the Convention (staff costs only);
- Collect and disseminate information on National Focal Points designated under Article 21 of the Convention (staff costs only);
- Collect and disseminate information on proposed amendments to the Convention;
- Provide legal advisory service to the Convention's bodies (staff costs only);
- Draft legal agreements (staff costs);
- Undertake Party-status related activities (staff costs only);
- Coordinate data collection for the SDG indicator 12.4.1 (staff costs only).

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Legal and policy advice, information, analysis and assistance is provided in a timely manner and to the satisfaction of Parties, partners, stakeholders, Secretariat staff and management;
- Relevant information is collected and disseminated, and agreements drafted in a timely manner;
- Information of relevance to the chemicals and waste-related indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals is transmitted to UNEP.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Feedback from Parties and stakeholders, reports to the COP;
- Reports to the COP;
- Meeting reports, decisions and other documents developed in the framework of the organizations working on the sustainable development and environment agendas.

## Component 14.3. National legislation, trade and enforcement

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**OUTCOMES**

Parties have a better understanding of and are in a better position to implement and comply with trade-related provisions of the Convention.

**ACTIVITIES**

- Support Parties in better understanding the trade provisions, their interrelation with other Articles of the Convention, and the use of trade forms adopted by the Conference of the Parties, subject to availability of resources;
- Develop awareness raising activities about provisions of the Convention on allowed uses and sources of mercury, subject to availability of resources;
- Assist Parties on request to implement trade-related provisions under Article 3 of the Convention (staff costs only);
- Cooperate with other MEAs and partners (e.g. IMPEL, INECE, UNEP, REN WCO, GCI, INTERPOL) to prevent and combat mercury trade which is not compliant with the Convention (staff costs only).

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Parties' requests for assistance in using trade related forms under Article 3 are dealt with to their satisfaction;
- A report on challenges to the implementation of the trade-related obligations under Article 3 and experiences in addressing these challenges by Parties is prepared for consideration by COP.
- Participation in at least 2 activities organized by or in cooperation with other MEAs and partners.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Feedback from Parties and other stakeholders;
- Report to the COP.

## Component 14.4. Addressing the needs of groups vulnerable to mercury exposure

### OUTCOMES

Strengthened ability to address the needs of groups in vulnerable situations in the programme of work of the Minamata Convention.

### ACTIVITIES ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- Review best practices in the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders in the development, implementation and review of ASGM NAPs.
- Collaborate with relevant entities to organize capacity-building or information workshops for Parties, Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities on ensuring effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities in the development, implementation, and reviews of ASGM NAPs.
- Enhance the Indigenous Peoples Platform to improve access and usability by Indigenous contributors to improve dissemination of information on mercury related and Indigenous led-activities addressing mercury pollution. ...
- Solicit financial and technical support, including travel assistance, to facilitate the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, particularly those from developing countries and regions disproportionately impacted by mercury pollution.

### ACTIVITIES ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN

- Implement the following activities identified under the gender action plan for the given biennium:
- Support the integration and monitoring of strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of childbearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, as appropriate, in the reviews of national action plans to be submitted by Parties pursuant to subparagraph 3 (c) of Article 7, in collaboration with the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme;
- Support the coordination of the women's caucus of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to advance the equality and empowerment of women within the implementation of the Convention;
- Collect information from Parties and other stakeholders on capacity-building needs and interests with respect to mercury exposure of women and children.

### ACTIVITIES ON YOUTH

- Liaise with the UN Major Group for Youth and Children, Chemicals and Waste Youth Platform, and relevant groups working on youth-led or youth-focused issues to participate in relevant workshops and meetings, including the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies Collaborate with relevant Youth groups to organize Youth-focused events in the lead up to and at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- Invite sharing of mercury-related research, awareness-raising activities, and other relevant activities that contribute to the implementation of the Minamata Convention through the Convention's Youth Engagement page.

### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Activities to address the needs of groups in vulnerable situation are integrated in the programme of work for the period 2026–2027;
- Participation of representatives of groups in vulnerable situations to COP

### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Report on Secretariat activities to COP;
- Programme of work for the next biennia;
- Training and workshop reports;
- Responses to surveys
- Lists of participants of relevant meetings.

- and other meetings Training tools designed and delivered.
- Online information workshops delivered.
  - Language accessible documents/briefs/primers developed

## Partners

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The Secretariat's legal and policy activities leverage partnerships and builds on the expertise of many actors in the chemicals and waste cluster.

**Work programme of the ICC:** As decided by the ICC.

**Core legal and policy activities:** Parties, BRS Conventions, Depositary and Office of Legal Affairs, UNEP, WTO, IMO, OHCHR, other IGOs, NGOs, private sector, COP Bureau, Implementation and Compliance Committee.

**Implementation of and compliance with trade related provisions:** Parties, BCRCs, SCRCs, UNEP, Green Customs Initiative, INTERPOL, World Customs Organization, INECE, IMPEL, Asian Network, other IGOs and NGOs with a mandate on illegal traffic/trade issues.

**Women and children; Indigenous Peoples, as well as local communities:** The Secretariat will promote equal participation of men and women in the work of the ICC and give due consideration to the differential needs of men, women and populations in vulnerable situations in the implementation of activity 14 overall. Listed activities to address the needs of groups in vulnerable situations align with decision MC-5/15 on the gender action plan and decision MC-5/1 on the effects of mercury pollution on Indigenous Peoples and on local communities.

Other relevant key stakeholders, such as the IOMC organizations, Global Mercury Partnership, other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), UNEP Regional Offices, non-governmental organizations and private sector organizations, will also be engaged.

## Socio-economic aspects

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**Sustainable Development Goals:** All four parts of this activity will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages; Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; and Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. Significant contributions will be made to the Goal 5 on Gender Equality.

**Integrated approach:** All four parts of this activity can contribute to catalyzing coordination among relevant stakeholders within Parties, including civil society and the private sector, as relevant, for an improved implementation and compliance with the Convention.

## Resources requirement

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)
<b>14. Legal and Policy Activities</b>												
<b>14.1. Implementation and Compliance Committee</b>												
Work programme of the ICC												
<b>Component total</b>												
<b>14.2. Legal activities</b>												
<b>Component total</b>												
<b>14.3. National legislation, trade and enforcement</b>												
<b>Component total</b>												
<b>14.4. Addressing the needs of groups in vulnerable situations</b>	16,000		<b>16,000</b>	20,000	20,000	40,000				20,000	20,000	40,000
<b>Component total</b>	<b>16,000</b>		<b>16,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>				<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16,000</b>		<b>16,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>				<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>

## Overview of resources

<b>Budget</b>	<b>General trust fund</b>	<b>Special trust Fund</b>	<b>Total contribution</b>
2024-2025 approved		<b>73,000</b>	<b>73,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	<b>16,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>56,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario		<b>40,000</b>	<b>40,000</b>

# Fact sheet G. Office maintenance and services

## Activity 15. Office maintenance and services

### Budget

General Trust Fund       Special Trust Fund

### Reference

UNEP/MC/COP.6/23: Programme of work and budget: proposed operational budgets for the two funding scenarios for the biennium 2026–2027

### Background and rationale

The provision of office maintenance, services and space are necessary for the operations of the Secretariat.

### Outcomes and activities

## Component 15.1. Office maintenance and services

### OUTCOMES

Sufficient office facilities, services and supplies are available to enable the Secretariat to operate in an efficient and effective manner.

### ACTIVITIES

- Operating costs (e.g. UN Security, diplomatic services, UN services (such as procurement), UMOJA costs, network printing);
- Office maintenance and utilities;
- Communications (fixed and mobile, supplies and services, including website hosting);
- Office equipment and other non-expendable items;
- Office supplies and other expendable items.

### INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT

- Availability of office space, services and equipment to facilitate the delivery of the programme of work.

### MEANS OF VERIFICATION

- Reports to the Parties and data in Umoja.

### Partners

UNON, UNOG, UNEP and external service provider

### Socio-economic aspects

Sustainable Development Goals: N/A

Integrated Approach: N/A

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026–2027)
<b>15. Office maintenance and services</b>												
<b>15.1. Office maintenance and services</b>												
Operating costs (Security, diplomatic services, UMOJA, network printing etc.)	120,000	120,000	<b>240,000</b>				120,000	120,000	<b>240,000</b>			
Office maintenance and utilities	32,000	32,000	<b>64,000</b>				32,000	32,000	<b>64,000</b>			
Communications (fixed and mobile, supplies and services, incl website hosting))	6,000	6,000	<b>12,000</b>				6,000	6,000	<b>12,000</b>			
Office equipment and other non-expendable items	2,000	2,000	<b>4,000</b>				2,000	2,000	<b>4,000</b>			
Office supplies and other expendable items	5,000	5,000	<b>10,000</b>				5,000	5,000	<b>10,000</b>			
<b>Component total</b>	<b>165,000</b>	<b>165,000</b>	<b>330,000</b>				<b>165,000</b>	<b>165,000</b>	<b>330,000</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>165,000</b>	<b>165,000</b>	<b>330,000</b>				<b>165,000</b>	<b>165,000</b>	<b>330,000</b>			

## Overview of resources

Budget	General trust fund	Special trust fund	Total contribution
2024-2025 approved	<b>330,866</b>		<b>330,866</b>
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent% scenario	<b>330,000</b>		<b>330,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	<b>330,000</b>		<b>330,000</b>

## Activity 16. Information technology services

### Budget

General Trust Fund       Special Trust Fund

### Reference

**UNEP/MC/COP.6/23:** Programme of work and budget: proposed operational budgets for the two funding scenarios for the biennium 2026–2027

### Background and rationale

This activity aims at the provision of basic information technology (IT) and services to ensure a smooth running of the Secretariat and the implementation of the programmes of work of the Convention. These include software packages, network administration, e-mail administration, internet access, security and helpdesk services, as well as non-expandable equipment such as personal computers, which are being leased. The activity also facilitates communication, technical assistance and outreach between the Secretariat and Parties and observers to the convention through the provision of IT solutions for collaboration, used for example for online meetings and trainings under various programme of work activities. To adapt to the new virtual way of working, this activity requires increased IT support to meet the increased requirements for online meeting platforms, ensuring security of online meetings and developing / tailoring software to manage participants in online meetings.

### Outcomes and activities

## Component 16.1. Information technology services

### OUTCOMES

This component ensures the storage and processing of the information generated in the process of the convention's implementation as well as provision of IT services to the Secretariat and Parties during meetings. It also provides the Secretariat with IT equipment and services necessary to implement the programme of work.

### ACTIVITIES

- IT services including internet;
- IT equipment and software;
- Software licenses and online meeting platforms.

**INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

- Procedures and resources are in place to ensure the implementation of the programmes of work for 2026–2027;
- Delivery of IT services in a cost efficient and timely manner to the Secretariat and Parties;
- Quality of IT services provided during meetings.

**MEANS OF VERIFICATION**

- Feedback from the Secretariat and Parties;
- High availability of network and application / platform services with minimal interruption;
- Feedback from the Secretariat and Parties.

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**Partners**

UNEP, UNOG and UNON.

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**Socio-economic aspects**

**Sustainable Development Goals:** By ensuring proper access to information related to the sound management of chemicals and wastes, this activity contributes to the Sustainable Development Goal 9 on “Industry, innovation and infrastructure” (target 9.c) and 16 on “Peace, justice and strong institutions” (target 16.10).

**Integrated Approach:** The online meetings and workshops will contribute to catalysing cooperation and coordination among Parties and relevant stakeholders at the global and regional level, including civil society and private sector, as relevant, thus promoting the sound management of chemicals and wastes. As such, this activity contributes to the integrated approach to financing options for chemicals and wastes.

## Resources requirements

Activity/Output	5 per cent scenario (2026–2027)						Zero nominal growth scenario (2026–2027)					
	General trust fund			Special trust fund			General trust fund			Special trust fund		
	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)	2026	2027	Total (2026– 2027)
<b>16. Information technology services</b>												
<b>16.1 Information technology services</b>												
IT services including internet	56,000	56,000	<b>112,000</b>				56,000	56,000	<b>112,000</b>			
IT equipment and software	3,000	3,000	<b>6,000</b>				3,000	3,000	<b>6,000</b>			
Licenses, software	1,500	1,500	<b>3,000</b>				1,500	1,500	<b>3,000</b>			
<b>Component total</b>	<b>60,500</b>	<b>60,500</b>	<b>121,000</b>				<b>60,500</b>	<b>60,500</b>	<b>121,000</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>60,500</b>	<b>60,500</b>	<b>121,000</b>				<b>60,500</b>	<b>60,500</b>	<b>121,000</b>			

## Overview of resources

Budget	General trust fund	Special trust fund	Total contribution
2024-2025 approved	<b>121,000</b>		<b>121,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the 5 per cent scenario	<b>121,000</b>		<b>121,000</b>
2026–2027 requested in the zero nominal growth scenario	<b>121,000</b>		<b>121,000</b>