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

Geneva, 3–7 November 2025

Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the  
Parties: financial resources and mechanism**

**Matters for consideration by the Conference of the Parties  
pursuant to decision MC-5/11 on the review of the financial  
mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

**Note by the secretariat**

**I. Introduction**

1. The Minamata Convention on Mercury, in article 13, paragraph 5, on financial resources and mechanism, 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. Paragraph 6 of the same article provides that the mechanism is to include the Global Environment Facility (GEF) trust fund and a specific international programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance.

2. Paragraph 11 of article 13 specifies that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention is to review, no later than at its third meeting, and thereafter on a regular basis, the level of funding, the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to the entities entrusted to operationalize the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the effectiveness of those entities, and their ability to address the changing needs of developing country parties and parties with economies in transition. On the basis of such a review, the Conference of the Parties is to take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

3. The present note describes progress in the implementation by the secretariat of decision MC-5/11 on the review of the financial mechanism.

**II. Overview of obligations and deadlines and the extent to which  
parties meet them**

4. The secretariat has kept the GEF secretariat and the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance informed of relevant Convention obligations and deadlines and the extent to which such obligations and deadlines are being met by parties, pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision MC-5/11.

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

5. In response to the request in paragraph 5 of decision MC-5/11, the secretariat prepared a compilation of obligations and deadlines under the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the extent to which they are being met by parties, as set out in UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/39. The compilation shows that many of the obligations with timelines based on a calendar year fall due before 2030. Beyond 2030, obligations for many parties will relate to ongoing measures under articles 3, 7, 10, 11 and 12. In addition, parties are obliged to maintain their inventory of emissions from relevant sources pursuant to article 8 and of releases pursuant to article 9. New parties joining the Convention in 2025 and later will be required to take timely measures in order to meet their obligations within the established time frames. In this regard, both new parties and non-parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition that are taking meaningful steps towards becoming parties will require enabling support in the lead-up to 2030 and would particularly benefit from targeted and timely engagement with GEF during the period 2026–2030 under the ninth replenishment of the GEF trust fund.

6. Information collected under national reporting is useful for understanding further needs with regard to the implementation of the Convention. First, one can see which parties have implemented which provisions, and, second, parties also set out their challenges in meeting the objective of the Convention. In their first full national reports, covering the period 17 August 2017–31 December 2020, parties highlighted challenges relating to, among other things:

- (a) Informal, illegal, unrecognized primary mercury mining (art. 3, para. 4), artisanal and small-scale gold mining (art. 7) and trade without consent of the party (art. 3, para. 6);
- (b) Implementation of trade controls for mercury-added products;
- (c) Lack of final disposal facilities for mercury waste;
- (d) Lack of facilities for storing mercury waste awaiting final disposal;
- (e) Management of mercury-contaminated sites;
- (f) Lack of access to financial, technical and capacity-building support for developing plans, guidelines and regulations;
- (g) Lack of capacity to translate technical information into local languages.

7. Furthermore, in the reports of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties, set out in the annex to document UNEP/MC/COP.5/14 and the annex to document UNEP/MC/COP.6/14, it was noted, among other things, that:

- (a) Parties that rely solely on Minamata Initial Assessments for identifying mercury stocks and sources may need to consider more up-to-date sources of information;
- (b) Several parties have not yet fulfilled their obligations under article 4, in particular the deadline for phasing out mercury-added products and for taking measures to phase down dental amalgam, and those parties have cited lack of resources to support them in implementing the provisions of article 4;
- (c) A limited number of parties reported on the effectiveness of the measures taken to implement articles 8 and 9.

### III. Global Environment Facility

8. Document UNEP/MC/COP.6/10 provides an update, prepared by the secretariat, of matters related to the Global Environment Facility, including the following:

- (a) Status of GEF programming on mercury since the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, including a number of recently approved programmes and projects. In particular, the newly approved, innovative Global Chemicals Monitoring Programme to support implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the global elimination of mercury in non-ferrous metals initiative will address mercury in industrial emissions and in the environment at large, supporting party efforts in assessing and combating mercury pollution;
- (b) Status of the eighth replenishment of the GEF trust fund, highlighting that approximately 35 per cent of the mercury allocation remains to be programmed;
- (c) An update on a recent evaluation of GEF interventions in the chemicals and waste focal area for the 2010–2024 period, and cooperation between the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

9. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of decision MC-5/11, the secretariat communicated to the GEF secretariat the result of the second review of the financial mechanism of the Convention and forwarded the report on the second review of the financial mechanism and the text of decision MC-5/11 to the GEF secretariat and the GEF Council in a letter dated 24 January 2024. The GEF secretariat set out the relevant information in document GEF/C.67/07/Rev.01, on relations with the conventions and other international institutions, which was submitted to the GEF Council at its sixty-seventh meeting, held in June 2024.

10. The ninth replenishment of the GEF trust fund was launched at the Technical Advisory Group meetings held in February 2025. The secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury has been engaged in the discussions, with the Executive Secretary attending those meetings and the first replenishment meetings, which were held in May 2025 in Paris. The replenishment process will continue with three more meetings in 2025 and early 2026 and will be concluded at the GEF Assembly in June 2026.

11. In paragraph 3 of decision MC-5/7, the Conference of the Parties invited GEF to support parties undertaking their reviews of the implementation of article 7 as part of the GEF enabling activity support available to parties. The GEF Council, at its sixty-seventh meeting, in June 2024, approved a new enabling activity on review of the implementation of article 7 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in collaboration with the Global Mercury Partnership, developed draft sections on the review of the implementation of article 7 for inclusion in the existing artisanal and small-scale gold mining national action plan guidance. The aim of the new sections is to facilitate reviews and support national focal points to organize information on the results of the review of the implementation of article 7 for inclusion in reports required under article 21. The proposed amendments are set out in the annex to document UNEP/MC/COP.6/7/Add.1 and include sections on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders as requested in decision MC-5/7, paragraph 7.<sup>1</sup>

#### **IV. Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance**

12. An overall report on the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance, prepared by the secretariat, is set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/11. The report covers the following elements: (a) support provided by the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to the Specific International Programme; (b) the work of the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme since the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; (c) the status of implementation of the projects approved in the first, second, third and fourth rounds of applications to the Specific International Programme; and (d) the status of contributions to the Specific Trust Fund for the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance.

13. The Specific International Programme is open to receive voluntary contributions and applications for support for an initial period of 10 years from the establishment of the Specific Trust Fund in January 2018, pursuant to decision MC-1/6. The decision also specifies that the Conference of the Parties may decide to extend the programme beyond 31 December 2027, not exceeding an additional seven years, taking into account the review process of the financial mechanism in accordance with paragraph 11 of article 13 of the Convention.

14. With the initial term of the Specific International Programme open only until 31 December 2027, the Conference of the Parties, in decision MC-5/11, requested the secretariat to prepare an analysis of expected funding needs and related staffing needs during the second half of the initial term of the Specific International Programme. The draft analysis, which is available in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/40, sets out two scenarios for determining expected funding and related staffing needs during the second half of the initial term and the potential extended term of the Specific International Programme, as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> The draft sections also refer to provisional guidance on the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the development, implementation and review of artisanal and small-scale gold mining national action plans, developed with the financial support of Australia and Norway. The provisional guidance is available in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/11.

(a) Scenario 1 assumes that a fifth and final round of applications would be launched in 2027 to support up to 10 additional projects within the initial term of the Programme. The anticipated budget for the additional funding round is up to \$2.5 million.

(b) Scenario 2 considers three funding rounds until the end of the Programme's possible extended term in 2034, enabling up to 40 additional projects. Extension of the Programme for an additional seven years to 2034 is subject to a decision of the Conference of the Parties, expected at its seventh meeting. The anticipated budget for an additional three funding rounds is up to \$9.1 million.

15. In both scenarios, the related workload of managing the Programme would be similar to the current allocation of resources, which includes the support of a full-time Junior Professional Officer or similar at the P-2 level.

16. Parties may wish to request the secretariat to work with the Governing Board to finalize the current draft analysis for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

## **V. Draft terms of reference for the third review of the financial mechanism**

17. 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 by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting. The draft terms of reference are set out in the annex to document UNEP/MC/COP.6/12, which also includes a draft decision on the third review of the financial mechanism for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

## **VI. Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties**

18. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the information contained in the present note and adopt a decision along the lines of the draft decision set out in the annex to the note.

## Annex

### Draft decision MC-6/[--]: Financial mechanism

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Highlighting* the central roles of the Global Environment Facility trust fund and the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance as the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

*Expressing appreciation* for the approval of a new enabling activity of the Global Environment Facility Council on review of the implementation of article 7 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

*Taking note* of the recommendation of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to parties that rely on the Minamata Initial Assessment baseline information to consider more up-to-date sources of information,

*Expressing appreciation* for the resources generously contributed by donors to the Specific Trust Fund for the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance for the fourth and fifth rounds of the Specific International Programme, and expressing appreciation for a successful launch of the fourth round,

1. *Welcomes* the ongoing ninth replenishment process of the Global Environment Facility trust fund and highlights the importance of the ninth replenishment for the parties of the Minamata Convention on Mercury for the period 2026–2030 vis-à-vis their respective obligations and deadlines to be met under the Convention;

2. *Provides* additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility, to supplement the guidance outlined in decision MC-1/5, as follows:

(a) The Global Environment Facility should support parties' efforts to identify mercury stocks and sources and to develop and update inventories of mercury emissions and releases and other inventories needed for implementation of the provisions of the Convention that relate to legally binding obligations, building on the Minamata Convention Initial Assessments; the Facility is therefore invited to include such support as part of the Facility's enabling activity support available to parties.;

(b) The Global Environment Facility should consider providing enabling support to non-parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition as long as the countries are taking meaningful steps towards becoming parties to the Convention and commit to reporting periodically on progress in that regard to the Conference of the Parties by submitting a letter from a relevant minister to the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility;

3. *Recalls* its request, in decision MC-5/11, that the Global Environment Facility take into account the time frames to which parties must adhere for the implementation of mandatory obligations in developing its programming directions and resource allocations for the ninth replenishment period, and in further developing projects and programmes under the programming directions for the eighth replenishment, as a supplement to the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, and requests the secretariat to transmit information as outlined in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/39 to the Global Environment Facility on such time frames for and mandatory obligations of parties;

4. *Encourages* the secretariat to continue to cooperate with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility in the evaluation of its projects;

5. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility, in reporting project results, to provide data and information on mercury reduction and avoidance as well as on efforts to advance the effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and local communities, to improve the understanding of any measurable results achieved;

6. *Reiterates the importance* of relevant parties' working through their operational focal points to make prompt and full use of the programming directions and resource allocation under the Global Environment Facility trust fund, including with respect to undertaking mercury reduction activities in the integrated programmes and within, in particular, the chemicals and waste, biodiversity, and climate change focal areas;

7. *Takes note* of the draft analysis by the secretariat of expected funding and staffing needs for the remaining time of the initial term and for a potential extension of the Specific International Programme for an additional seven years, and requests the secretariat to work with the Governing Board to finalize the draft analysis and prepare draft recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;

8. *Agrees* to decide on the potential extension of the Specific International Programme for an additional period of seven years at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, noting that the third review of the financial mechanism is scheduled to take place at the same meeting;

9. *Encourages* the secretariat to continue coordinating with the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Global Framework on Chemicals – for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, within the scope of their respective mandates, in order to enhance complementarity and avoid duplication, as requested in resolution 6/9 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme.

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