



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

Geneva, 3–7 November 2025

Item 4 (e) (ii) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the
Parties: financial resources and mechanism: Specific
International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and
Technical Assistance**

Overall report on the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present note provides information on the implementation of decision MC-5/11, on the review of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted at its fifth meeting. In particular, the present note sets out the secretariat's overall report on the second component of the financial mechanism,¹ namely the Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.
2. The note is to be read in conjunction with document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/15, in which the reports of the ninth and tenth meetings of the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme are set out.
3. A draft decision, related to both components of the financial mechanism, is set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/9 for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

II. Support provided by the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to the Specific International Programme

4. The secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury administers the Specific International Programme through the following ongoing activities:
 - (a) *Support for the operations of the Governing Board.* The secretariat organized and prepared the documentation for the ninth meeting of the Governing Board, held online on 15 and

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

¹ Document UNEP/MC/COP.6/10 outlines matters relating to the first entity of the financial mechanism, namely the Global Environment Facility trust fund.

16 April 2024, and the tenth meeting, which took place in Geneva, from 22 to 24 January 2025. More information on the work of the Governing Board is set out in section III of the present note.

(b) *Launching and reviewing rounds of applications to the Specific International Programme.* Following the decision of the Governing Board at its ninth meeting, the secretariat successfully launched the fourth round of applications in April 2024. During the submission process, the secretariat held webinars in different languages and time zones and provided technical support as requested by prospective applicants. The secretariat screened all received applications for eligibility and completeness and convened the cross-secretariat task team, composed of representatives from the Global Environment Facility, the Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening for the Chemicals Cluster, and the Global Mercury Partnership, along with secretariat staff, to provide input to the technical review of applications. Subsequently, the secretariat provided technical comments on the 30 eligible project proposals submitted and, upon resubmission of revised proposals, prepared thorough appraisals of the 29 eligible applications. The appraisals were based on the criteria set out by the Governing Board and were integrated with written comments received from the secretariat of the Special Programme and finalized for the tenth meeting of the Governing Board. Following the Governing Board's decision on the projects to be funded, the secretariat notified all applicants of the outcomes, worked with the successful applicants to refine their project documents and drafted the project legal agreements.

(c) *Administration of the Specific Trust Fund.* The secretariat administered the contributions to the Specific Trust Fund and their disbursement in accordance with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) procedures, including documentation for all grant agreements, amendments, reports and disbursements in the Umoja system.

(d) *Implementation and monitoring support for approved projects.* The secretariat supported and monitored implementation of the 24 projects approved in the first three rounds of applications. The assistance provided to project partners encompasses the entire life cycle of the projects, including drafting of project legal agreements and amendments thereto, as well as coordination of the signature process; review and approval of biannual and final project progress and expenditure reports, equipment inventories, financial audit reports and project outputs submitted to the secretariat; disbursement of instalments of funds and coordination of project balance refund procedures; and closure of completed projects.

(e) *Resource mobilization, donor recognition and reporting for the Specific Trust Fund.* The secretariat manages all aspects of fundraising and reporting for the Specific Trust Fund. To raise the profile of the Specific International Programme and encourage contributions to the Specific Trust Fund, the secretariat has drawn attention to the work of the programme in all of its relevant engagements, webinars and meetings. The secretariat manages the receipt of contributions to the Specific Trust Fund while meeting individual donor requirements for documentation and reporting. Donors are highlighted on the Convention website and in relevant publications.²

(f) *Communications and outreach.* The secretariat improved and updated the Specific International Programme web page on the Minamata Convention on Mercury website, by developing a new tab containing all information related to the fourth round of applications.³ Furthermore, the secretariat developed a Microsoft PowerBI dashboard⁴ and revamped its project database, including both projects of the Specific International Programme and the Global Environment Facility.⁵ The secretariat also organized several online awareness-raising events.

5. Interest in the Specific International Programme has grown steadily since its inception, with 19 applications submitted in the first application round in 2018 and 36 applications submitted in the fourth round (2024–2025). The secretariat has continued to refine and enhance the efficiency of the operations in order to effectively manage the growing number of applications and funded projects while maintaining high standards of fiduciary responsibility, in line with UNEP procedures.

² See <https://minamataconvention.org/en/implementation/specific-international-programme/donors>.

³ <https://minamataconvention.org/en/implementation/specific-international-programme/fourth-round>.

⁴ See <https://minamataconvention.org/en/implementation/specific-international-programme/dashboard>.

⁵ See <https://minamataconvention.org/en/projects/list>.

III. Work of the Governing Board of the Specific International Programme since the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

6. The Governing Board consists of 10 members from parties. Each of the five United Nations regional groups nominates two members through their respective Bureau representatives. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties confirmed the members of the Governing Board as follows:

- (a) *For the African States:* Liliane Randrianomenjanahary (Madagascar) and Obed Meringo Baloyi (South Africa);
- (b) *For the Asia-Pacific States:* Luay Sadeq Almkhtar (Iraq) and Wasantha Dissanayake (Sri Lanka);
- (c) *For the Eastern European States:* Mario Vujić (Croatia) and Suzana Andonova (North Macedonia);
- (d) *For the Latin American and Caribbean States:* Ana Cristina Linhares (Brazil) and Michelle Astwood (Guyana);
- (e) *For the Western European and other States:* Rafael Zubrzycki (Germany) and Andrew Clark (United States of America).

7. In April 2024, Rathnappuli Hewa Mynattuge Pathmalatha Abeykoon (Sri Lanka) was designated to replace Wasantha Dissanayake (Sri Lanka) as a member of the Governing Board for the remainder of the term.

8. At its ninth meeting, the Governing Board elected Obed Meringo Baloyi (South Africa) and Andrew Clark (United States of America) as Co-Chairs for the current term.

9. At its ninth meeting, the Governing Board received and discussed the 2024 annual report of the secretariat to the Governing Board on operations of the Specific International Programme, including an update on the funds and pledges received by and expenditures of the Specific Trust Fund. The Governing Board decided to launch the fourth round of applications, and considered the recommendations of the midterm evaluation of the Specific International Programme addressed to the Governing Board with respect to the launch of the fourth round.

10. The tenth meeting of the Governing Board took place in Geneva, from 22 to 24 January 2025. At that meeting, the Governing Board considered and deliberated, among other matters, on the annual report of the secretariat on the operations of the Specific International Programme; the status of the Specific Trust Fund; the draft terms of reference for the third review of the financial mechanism; and an update from the secretariat on the draft analysis of expected funding needs and related staffing needs during the second half of the initial term of the Specific International Programme. The Governing Board considered the 29 eligible applications submitted to the fourth round of applications and approved 10 projects for funding.

IV. Status of implementation of approved Specific International Programme projects

11. In the fourth round of applications (2024–2025), the Governing Board approved 10 projects with an overall budget of \$2,104,630 (\$2,378,231 including 13 per cent programme support costs). The approved projects and their budgets were as follows:

- (a) *Brazil:* Artisanal and small-scale gold mining: health and environmental aspects of mercury use (\$250,000);
- (b) *Chad:* Controlling trade in mercury and mercury-added products (\$230,000);
- (c) *Djibouti:* Strengthening the legal and institutional framework for the environmentally sound management of mercury and mercury-containing wastes (\$201,000);
- (d) *Eritrea:* National capacity-building to raise awareness of the health and environmental effects of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining activities (\$85,000);
- (e) *Georgia:* Empowering national capacities and knowledge management for Minamata Convention on Mercury compliance (\$244,000);
- (f) *Madagascar:* Strengthening the capacity of Madagascar for the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the management of mercury-containing products (\$244,000);

- (g) *Montenegro*: Development options for mercury remediation of the contaminated former metal mining site in Brskovo (\$247,980);
- (h) *Sri Lanka*: Providing an environmentally sound integrated solution for management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds generated in the Ayurvedic drugs manufacturing process to protect the human health and the environment – detailed study from Sri Lanka (\$197,650);
- (i) *United Republic of Tanzania*: Strengthening national capacity for implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (\$211,000);
- (j) *Zimbabwe*: Mitigating mercury emissions and releases from coal combustion power plants in Zimbabwe towards fulfilling article 8 obligations under the Minamata Convention on Mercury (\$194,000).

12. The secretariat is working with each Government to finalize the approved project documents and prepare legal agreements for signature so that disbursement of project funds can begin.

13. In the third round of applications (2020–2021), the Governing Board approved the following nine projects with an overall budget of \$2,193,842 (\$2,479,041 including 13 per cent programme support costs):

- (a) *Burundi*: Capacity-building support for implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (\$250,000);
- (b) *Cuba*: Improvement of information on inventories of mercury use and the environmental cycle in Cuba to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (\$249,210);
- (c) *Gabon*: Facilitating capacity-building with technology assistance and technology transfer for monitoring and managing mercury in Central Africa (\$249,500);
- (d) *India*: Development of an institutional and regulatory framework for implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in India (\$240,000);
- (e) *Iran (Islamic Republic of)*: Improving the capacity-building programme for the replacement of mercury-containing lamps in the Islamic Republic of Iran (\$238,000);
- (f) *Jordan*: Environmentally sound management of mercury-containing wastes and reduction of mercury-containing products in Jordan (\$250,000);
- (g) *North Macedonia*: Strengthening national capacities for Minamata Convention on Mercury implementation with a focus on the development of a strategy for assessing sites contaminated with mercury (\$248,500);
- (h) *Rwanda*: Strengthening the institutional capacities for Rwanda to implement the Minamata Convention on Mercury (\$220,000);
- (i) *Senegal*: Strengthening the legal framework and institutional capacities of the Economic Community of West African States countries (Burkina Faso, Senegal and Togo) for the implementation of articles 3 and 4 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (\$248,632).

14. All nine legal agreements for the third-round projects have been signed, and implementation is under way. Four projects have to date requested no-cost extensions of project duration. Six of the nine third-round projects are scheduled to close in 2025.

15. In the second round of applications (2019), the Governing Board approved the following 10 projects with an overall budget of \$1,977,564 (\$2,234,647 including 13 per cent programme support costs):

- (a) *Antigua and Barbuda*: Facilitating capacity-building with technical assistance and technology transfer for managing mercury in the Caribbean (\$210,000);
- (b) *Ecuador*: Project to strengthen capacities in the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Ecuador (\$250,000);
- (c) *Ghana*: Strengthening Ghana's health sector for the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (\$250,000);
- (d) *Indonesia*: Improving health risk control of mercury exposure in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and surrounding areas by developing the participatory approach model (\$143,340);

- (e) *Iran (Islamic Republic of)*: Capacity-building for effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, focusing on mercury inventory (\$149,800);
- (f) *Nigeria*: Capacity strengthening for the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Nigeria (\$250,000);
- (g) *Peru*: Strengthening capacities to control emissions and releases of mercury (\$126,000);
- (h) *Republic of Moldova*: Support, post-ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, to build phase-down capacities and reduce risks associated with mercury (\$219,765);
- (i) *Sri Lanka*: Strengthening national capacity for phasing out mercury-added products and environmentally sound mercury-containing waste management (\$178,659);
- (j) *Zambia*: Strengthening the institutional capacity for Zambia to implement the obligations of the Minamata Convention on Mercury by reducing the presence of mercury in vulnerable populations as provided for under articles 16 and 18 (\$200,000).

16. All second-round projects have been completed.

17. In the first round of applications (2018), the Governing Board approved the following five projects with an overall budget of \$961,663 (\$1,086,679 including 13 per cent programme support costs):

- (a) *Argentina*: Capacity-building programme for the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (\$250,000);
- (b) *Armenia*: Strengthening capacity to promote phasing out of mercury-added products (lamps) (\$162,000);
- (c) *Benin*: Improvement of the management framework for mercury-containing products and wastes (\$249,113);
- (d) *Iran (Islamic Republic of)*: Implementing Minamata Convention on Mercury management in chlor-alkali plants in the petrochemical industry (\$100,000);
- (e) *Lesotho*: Strengthening institutional capacity in the development of a phase-out and phase-down strategy for mercury-added products in Lesotho (\$200,550).

18. All projects of the first round have been completed. The secretariat engaged consultants to conduct terminal evaluations of four first-round projects, as per the agreed project budgets.

V. Status of contributions to the Specific Trust Fund

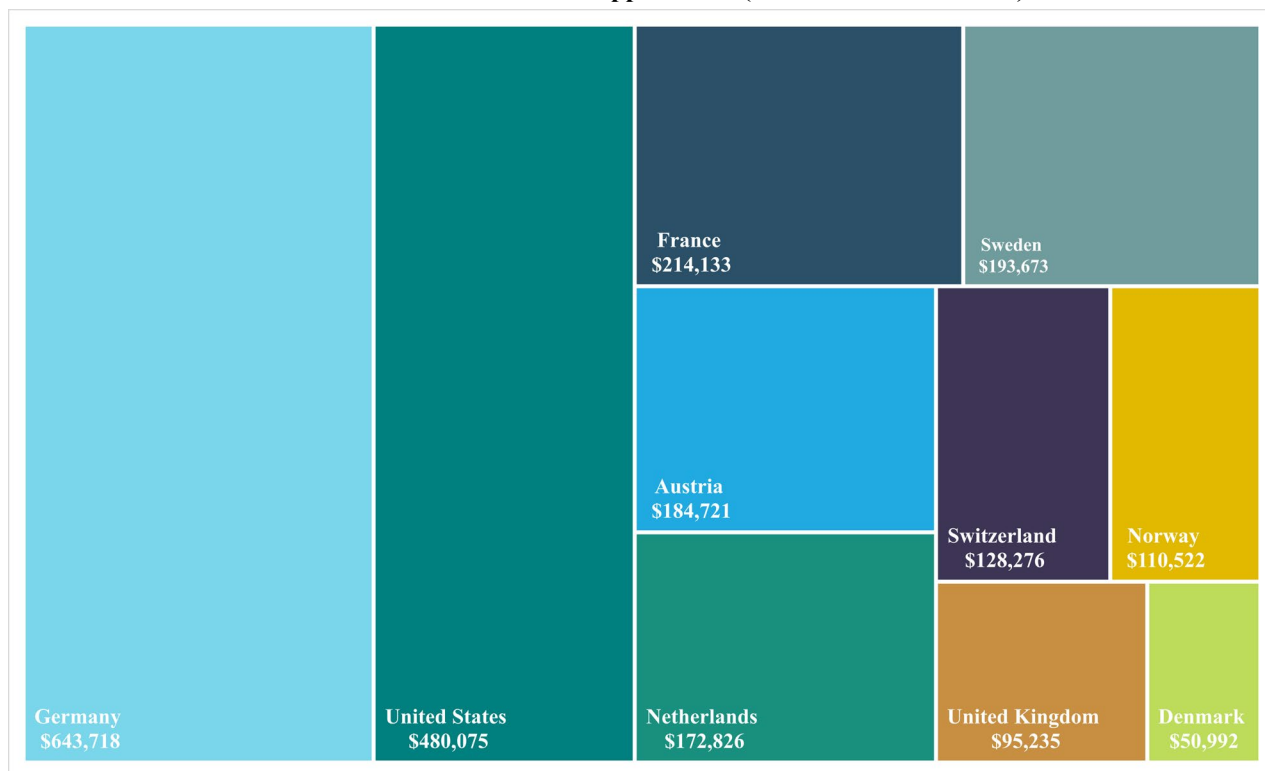
19. Since the establishment of the Specific Trust Fund in 2018, contributions and pledges have been received from Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as is indicated in the following table.

Contributions and pledges received for the Specific Trust Fund since the establishment of the Specific International Programme

(United States dollars, as at 28 May 2025)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Total amount pledged/contributed</i>
Austria	505 194
Denmark	175 748
France	324 144
Germany	1 118 927
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	331 193
Norway	2 748 661
Sweden	844 663
Switzerland	1 243 145
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	305 235
United States	853 083
Total	8 449 992

Contributions to the fourth round of applications (in United States dollars)



20. Contributions to the Specific Trust Fund primarily fund grants for country-led projects selected and approved by the Governing Board. They also cover costs associated with the meetings and work of the Governing Board and the operation of the Specific International Programme, as outlined in decision MC-1/6.

21. The above figure shows contributions towards the fourth round of applications, by country. As at 24 June 2025, €100,000 had been pledged by France towards the fifth round of applications. The receipt of consistent contributions to the Specific Trust Fund is essential for the secretariat to be able to launch a fifth round of applications to support parties in their implementation of the Convention.