



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

Geneva, 3–7 November 2025

Item 4 (g) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the
Parties: Implementation and Compliance Committee**

**Report on the work of the Implementation and Compliance
Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, including
recommendations**

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Article 15 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, on the Implementation and Compliance Committee, establishes a mechanism, including a committee as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to promote implementation of, and review compliance with, all the provisions of the Convention. The article stipulates that the Committee shall examine both individual and systemic issues of implementation and compliance and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties. Furthermore, the Committee may consider issues on the basis of written submissions from any party with respect to its own compliance; national reports in accordance with article 21; and requests from the Conference of the Parties.

II. Implementation

2. In the period between the fifth and sixth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Committee held its sixth meeting online, on 24 and 25 September 2024, and its seventh meeting in Geneva, from 18 to 20 February 2025. The reports of the sixth and seventh meetings are reproduced in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/19.

3. On 19 March 2024, Mexico shared with the secretariat a written submission with respect to its own compliance pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of article 15, which was the first time that the Committee had been requested to consider a written submission from a party. Mexico indicated in its written submission that, despite ongoing efforts to gradually eliminate the use of mercury in the chlor-alkali sector, it would not be able to comply with its obligation to phase out the use of mercury and mercury compounds in chlor-alkali production by 2025 in accordance with article 5 and part I of annex B to the Convention. After consideration of the matter at its sixth meeting, the Committee adopted decision ICC-6/1 inviting Mexico to elaborate a strategy for achieving compliance with its obligations under paragraph 2 of article 5 and part I of annex B to the Convention, associated with a proposed time schedule, indicators of achievement, risk management, and responsible authority, and to report

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

periodically to the Committee on the implementation of that strategy. In the decision, the Committee also invited Mexico to provide periodic updates with respect to any financial or technical challenges faced in implementing the project to phase out the use of mercury in chlor-alkali production. Decision ICC-6/1 is set out in the annex to the report of the Committee's sixth meeting (reproduced in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/19, annex I).

4. In response, Mexico submitted a strategy on 2 January 2025 for consideration by the Committee at its seventh meeting. After considering the strategy, the Committee adopted decision ICC-7/1 welcoming the strategy and recommending that Mexico implement it. The Committee also welcomed the assurances provided by Mexico that mercury recovered from the relevant facility would be either disposed of in accordance with the Convention or put to other uses allowable under the Convention and noted the importance in that regard of paragraph 5 (b) of article 3, among the Convention's provisions. Decision ICC-7/1 is set out in the annex to the report of the Committee's seventh meeting (reproduced in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/19, annex II).

5. At its sixth and seventh meetings, the Committee also considered issues of implementation and compliance on the basis of the second short national reports, which were to be submitted by parties by 31 December 2023 for the reporting period 1 January 2021–31 December 2022. Pursuant to paragraph 25 (b) of the Committee's terms of reference, the secretariat completed a review of the submitted national reports and prepared a report for consideration by the Committee, which included information about parties' reporting performance and identification of particular issues that had emerged from the second short national reports. The Committee considered the secretariat's report and reached agreement on one recommendation, on primary mercury mining, and on conclusions with respect to the following issues:

- (a) Reporting performance;
- (b) Primary mercury mining (question 3.1 of the reporting format);
- (c) Stocks and sources (question 3.3 of the reporting format);
- (d) Mercury trade (question 3.5 of the reporting format);
- (e) Mercury wastes (question 11.2 of the reporting format).

6. The Committee's recommendation on primary mercury mining is set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/5, in which a footnote identifies the related draft decision text for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

7. The Committee estimated that, in view of the anticipated workload, especially the review of the second full national reports, it should hold a three-day in-person meeting during the intersessional period. The Committee also agreed that it would be appropriate to organize an online meeting, comprising two four-hour sessions, in advance of the in-person meeting.

8. The Committee agreed to include the following elements in its work programme for 2026–2027, in accordance with paragraph 4 of article 15 of the Convention:

- (a) Consideration of issues on the basis of written submissions from any party with respect to its own compliance, including a report on the implementation by Mexico of the strategy it had presented;
- (b) Consideration of issues on the basis of the second full national reports in accordance with article 21, which were due to be submitted by parties by 31 December 2025;
- (c) Consideration of any requests by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

9. The Committee decided to hold its eighth meeting online in the first half of 2026, and its ninth meeting in person in the second half of 2026, with the exact timing to be determined by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair. The ninth meeting would be held in Geneva unless an offer to host the meeting was received from one of the Committee members.

10. The Committee elected Hu Yunfang (China) as Chair and Eva Salplachtova (Czechia) as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur to serve for the period from the closure of the seventh meeting until the closure of the next in-person meeting of the Committee.

III. Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

11. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider the Committee's report, including the conclusions and recommendation listed in the annex to the present report.

Annex

Review of issues of compliance and implementation under the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the basis of national reporting

1. At its sixth and seventh meetings, the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention on Mercury examined issues of implementation and compliance on the basis of the secretariat's report on the second short national reports, set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/20, and agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations, in accordance with section III.B of its terms of reference.

I. Reporting performance¹

2. The Committee:

- (a) Welcomed the high rate of reporting performance by parties for the second short national reports;
- (b) Noted the importance of timely submission of national reports and acknowledged that there was room for further improvement in the reporting rate;
- (c) Requested the secretariat to follow up and to reach out to parties who had not yet submitted their second short national reports;
- (d) Acknowledged the ongoing assistance by the secretariat;
- (e) Requested parties who had not yet submitted their second short national reports to do so by 31 May 2025.

II. Article 3

A. Primary mercury mining

3. Regarding questions 3.1 of the reporting format, the Committee reached the following conclusions and recommendation:

- (a) Took note that parties with important mercury deposits raised the presence of informal or illegal primary mining in their territories since the first reporting cycle;
- (b) Recommended that the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties consider inviting parties to submit information on experiences and challenges faced in the implementation of paragraph 3 of article 3, specifically taking into account any information already provided in response to paragraph 4 of decision MC-5/2;
- (c) Decided to re-examine this issue at its next meeting in light of available information and consider any appropriate conclusion or recommendation to provide to the Conference of the Parties.

B. Stocks and sources

4. Regarding questions 3.3 of the reporting format, the Committee reached the following conclusions:

- (a) Considering that decision MC-4/8 requests parties to continue their ongoing efforts to endeavour to identify individual stocks and sources of mercury in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 3 of the Convention, noted that parties who solely rely on their MIA results may need to consider more up-to-date sources of information;
- (b) Decided to reconsider this matter after the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in light of the revised guidance on stocks requested in paragraph 5 (a) of decision MC-5/2.

¹ The conclusions and recommendations are presented without formal editing.

C. Trade in mercury

5. Regarding questions 3.5 of the reporting format, the Committee reached the following conclusions:

- (a) Expressed concern regarding the issue of illicit trafficking, illegal trade or smuggling of mercury raised by some parties in their national reports;
- (b) Emphasized the importance of implementation of and compliance with the trade provisions contained in article 3 of the Convention;
- (c) Decided to re-examine this issue at its next meeting in light of the information compiled by the secretariat pursuant to paragraph 4 of decision MC-5/2.

III. Article 11

6. Regarding questions 11.2 of the reporting format, the Committee reached the following conclusions:

- (a) Took note of the information provided by parties on their mercury waste disposal practices and acknowledged the improvement in the information reported as compared to previous reporting cycles;
 - (b) Expressed appreciation to the secretariat for ongoing follow-up communication with certain Parties to seek additional elaboration on the sound disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds;
 - (c) Encouraged parties to further elaborate, as appropriate, on their final disposal methods in their upcoming second full national report, taking into account paragraph 3 of the annex to decision MC-4/8.
-