



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

Geneva, 3–7 November 2025

Item 4 (h) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the
Parties: national reporting**

National reporting (article 21): second short national reports

Note by the secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of article 21 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, each party is to report to the Conference of the Parties, through the secretariat, on the measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures and the possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention. Pursuant to decision MC-1/8, on the timing and format of reporting, parties were to submit their second short national reports, covering the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022, by 31 December 2023.
2. Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of article 24 of the Convention, section II of the present note contains a periodic report to the Conference of the Parties based on the information received pursuant to articles 15 and 21 and other available information.
3. Section III outlines the intersessional work conducted on the online reporting tool and reporting guidance pursuant to decision MC-5/13. The updated guidance for completing the national reporting format is set out in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/21.
4. Section IV outlines the arrangements necessary for reporting on the results of the secretariat's analysis of the second full national reports before the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Section V proposes a draft decision on national reporting for consideration by the Conference of the Parties in the light of parties' responses in the second short reports. The text of the draft decision is set out in the annex to the note. Proposed actions related to the issues of primary mercury mining, stocks and sources, and trade in mercury are presented in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/5, and those related to mercury waste are presented in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/8.

**II. Periodic report of the secretariat based on information received
pursuant to articles 15 and 21 of the Convention**

6. With regard to article 21 submissions, the secretariat reviewed the parties' responses to the four recurrent questions concerning measures to implement the Convention and their effectiveness.

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

Following are (a) an outline of parties' reporting performance and (b) the secretariat's observations on the responses in the second short reports. Complete reports, as verified by submitting parties and the secretariat, are published on the Convention website.¹

7. As at 31 May 2025, 118 of 137 parties (86 per cent) had submitted their second short reports, for the period ending 31 December 2022. The figure includes 91 submissions by the deadline and 27 submissions received subsequently.²

8. The reporting rates by region were as follows: 31 of 37 parties from the Group of African States (84 per cent), 26 of 35 parties from the Group of Asia-Pacific States (74 per cent), 16 of 16 parties from the Group of Eastern European States (100 per cent), 20 of 24 parties from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (83 per cent), and 25 of 25 parties from the Group of Western European and Other States (100 per cent).

9. As at 31 May 2025, 19 reports remained outstanding, from the following parties: Bahamas (The), Central African Republic, Cuba, Djibouti, Gambia, Jordan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mauritania, Pakistan, Paraguay, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tonga, Vanuatu, Zimbabwe.

10. There are 11 incomplete reports for which the secretariat is awaiting clarification of responses or additional information from the respective national focal points. One party (Kenya) submitted reports voluntarily before the Convention entered into force for the country (2023). Those submissions have been recorded separately by the secretariat.

11. Of the 118 reporting parties, 116 (98 per cent) used the online reporting tool, for which login credentials were issued to national focal points on 5 April 2023, while two parties (Congo and South Africa) submitted reports via email. The secretariat also received an email submission attributed to Zimbabwe, but as it was not submitted by the designated national focal point or contact officer, it has been excluded from the analysis in the present report. Official confirmation from the national focal point of Zimbabwe remains pending.

12. In line with paragraph 4 of decision MC-5/15 requesting the secretariat, among other things, to measure meaningful participation of women in the processes and activities of the secretariat, the secretariat measured the distribution of reporting officers (national focal points and contact officers) for the reporting period in question as follows: out of 110 reporting officers, 58 (52.75 per cent) were female and 52 (47.3 per cent) were male.

13. At its seventh meeting, in February 2025, the Implementation and Compliance Committee, in its review of the results of the second short national reports, welcomed the high reporting performance by parties, noted the importance of the timely submission of national reports, acknowledged that there was room for further improvement in the reporting rate, requested the secretariat to follow up and to contact parties that had not yet submitted their second short national reports, and requested parties that had not yet submitted their second short national reports to do so by 31 May 2025. Two parties (Chile and Tuvalu) submitted their reports by that date.

14. The conclusions and recommendations of the Implementation and Compliance Committee are set out in the annex to the report on the work of the Committee to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/MC/COP.6/14).

¹ See <https://minamataconvention.org/en/parties/reporting/2023>.

² The following parties submitted their second short national reports: Afghanistan, Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China (including Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Macao Special Administrative Region), Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, European Union, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia.

15. The secretariat used the conclusions on reporting performance agreed on by the Committee as a basis for preparing relevant parts of the draft decision set out in the annex to the present note.

16. With respect to the review of responses in the second short national reports, the findings of the secretariat are organized on the basis of the four recurrent reporting questions. Each of the sections below provides a description of progress made, challenges identified and relevant Committee conclusions or recommendations on the respective topic.

A. Question 3.1: Primary mercury mining³

17. *Progress.* Reported primary mercury production from formal mining operations declined during the reporting period. One party reported an 11.4 per cent decline in production, from 193 metric tons in 2021 to 171 metric tons in 2022, while another party reported 0 metric tons for both 2021 and 2022. One party also reported the presence of illegal primary mercury mines in its territory during the reporting period, in accordance with paragraph 1 of decision MC-5/2, in which parties were encouraged to report on all primary mercury mining activities carried out in their territories, irrespective of their status as formal, informal or illegal.

18. *Challenges.* The following were reported as challenges: the information gap regarding informal or illegal activities, including primary mercury mining, and the informal or illegal operations themselves. One party reported that its Government had never issued a primary mercury (cinnabar) mining licence, meaning that primary mercury mining was illegal in that country. The party had also addressed the issue of illegal primary mercury mining in its previous reports and had mentioned the challenge that, since primary mercury mining was illegal, it was difficult for the Government to know exactly how much primary mercury mining was carried out in the party's territory. Another party was only able to report on the official production of mercury. In its explanation on question 3.1, the party did not discount the possibility of illegal mercury production occurring in its territory. In its full report (submitted in 2021), the same party mentioned the persistence of illegal mercury production that it had identified through its environmental monitoring efforts and that might be additional to its known closed mines.

19. *Committee recommendation.* At its seventh meeting, the Committee recommended that the Conference of the Parties, at its sixth meeting, 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.

B. Question 3.3: Stocks and sources of mercury⁴

20. *Progress.* There has been an improvement in the quality of responses to question 3.3. In their reports, parties provided a good overview of the outcomes of endeavours to identify stocks and sources of mercury and clearer distinctions between identified stocks and sources, quantities of mercury identified and reported, and additional descriptions of the endeavours made.⁵

21. *Challenges.* The data on reported inventories of stocks and sources in the Minamata initial assessments may be outdated, considering that the majority of the 71 assessments were submitted to the secretariat in 2018 (21 submissions), 2019 (15 submissions) and 2017 (11 submissions), with three parties submitting their assessments as early as 2016.⁶ One party explained in its report that its initial inventory covered the period from 2017 to 2019 and that no new inventory had been prepared for the reporting period ending on 31 December 2022. Three parties with completed initial assessments also explained in their reports that they had no financial resources or lacked the technical capacity necessary to take inventory of stocks and sources. Of the 51 parties that responded to part C (Comments on possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention), 14 parties (27 per cent) reported a lack of technical resources⁷ as a concern. Other parties may face similar

³ See document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/20 for the full text of question 3.1.

⁴ See document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/20 for the full text of question 3.3.

⁵ Pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision MC-5/2, the secretariat has prepared a draft update to the existing guidance on stocks, adopted in decision MC-1/2, to include types of action that could be taken to fulfil the continuing obligation to endeavour to identify stocks and sources in accordance with paragraph 5 (a) of article 3 of the Convention. The updated guidance can be found in annex I to document UNEP/MC/COP.6/5.

⁶ See document UNEP/MC/COP.6/9 for a proposal to provide guidance to the Global Environment Facility to support parties in identifying stocks and sources of mercury.

⁷ Technical resources covered a broad range of topics for parties reporting under part C of the reporting format, which can include, but is not limited to, data-gathering capacity and research.

situations in updating their mercury inventories after their assessments but have not mentioned those challenges in their reports.

22. *Committee recommendation.* At its seventh meeting, the Committee noted that parties that relied solely on the results of their Minamata initial assessments might need to consider more up-to-date sources of information.

C. Question 3.5: Mercury trade⁸

23. *Progress.* The rate of submission of trade consent forms to the secretariat rose to 57 per cent (4 of 7 parties) submitting forms in the current cycle, compared with 50 per cent (3 of 6 parties) in the previous cycle.

24. *Challenges.* The following challenges were reported:

(a) The trade forms were incomplete (e.g. because of missing signatures, unclear mercury sources, and missing evidence of the importing party's consent), and it is unclear whether the information provided in lieu of trade consent forms meets all the requirements of article 3. The information shared by one party included the quantity of mercury traded and the purpose of the import. However, information on the source of the mercury, on whether the mercury had been determined by the exporting party to be excess mercury from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities, and on the indication of consent by the importing party, among other information, was not immediately apparent from the submission;

(b) Concern about informal or illegal trade in mercury was also mentioned by parties in their responses in part C.⁹

25. *Committee conclusion.* At its seventh meeting, the Committee 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 on experiences and challenges faced in the implementation of article 3 as well as activities undertaken in relation to the Bali Declaration on combating illegal trade in mercury.

D. Question 11.2: Mercury waste¹⁰

26. *Progress.* The information reported on the final disposal methods used has improved since the previous reporting period, in particular since the definition of "final disposal" was clarified by the Conference of the Parties in decision MC-4/8.

27. *Challenges.* Some of the final disposal methods reported by parties did not clarify specific elements of disposal methods for waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds as outlined in the technical guidelines developed under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, including stabilization and solidification.¹¹

28. *Committee recommendation.* The Committee encouraged parties to further elaborate, as appropriate, on their final disposal methods in their upcoming second full national reports, taking into account paragraph 3 of the annex to decision MC-4/8, which provides clarification as to where parties may look for information on how to define "final disposal" and how they might find national facilities using techniques for final disposal.

Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention

29. A total of 51 parties provided responses in part C of the reporting format. Of those parties, 22 (43 per cent) cited a lack of financial resources or access to such resources as a major challenge. Sixteen parties (31 per cent) cited a lack of institutional capacity as a challenge, including the need to build capacity among enforcement officers more effectively, update regulations or laws, and improve regional coordination. Fourteen parties (27 per cent) reported a lack of technical resources as a concern. Another 14 parties (27 per cent) reported challenges related to trade in mercury and mercury-added products, including illicit trafficking, illegal trade and smuggling of mercury for use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and of prohibited mercury-added products. Three parties

⁸ See document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/20 for the full text of question 3.5.

⁹ For findings in this regard, see document UNEP/MC/COP.6/5. For information on the responses in the second short national reports and on historical trends observed by the secretariat over the three reporting cycles, see document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/20.

¹⁰ See document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/20 for the full text of question 11.2.

¹¹ For further information, see documents UNEP/MC/COP.6/8 and UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/12.

(6 per cent) reported that domestic trade in mercury was a challenge, citing the use of electronic platforms to sell mercury or mercury-added products on local markets.

III. Update to the reporting guidance and other measures to support parties in national reporting

30. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of decision MC-5/13, in which the Conference of the Parties called on parties to submit their first full national reports by 31 December 2023, 87 of 123 parties (71 per cent) had submitted their reports by the deadline. As at 5 July 2025, 117 of 123 parties (95 per cent) had submitted their first full national reports.

31. In response to paragraph 6 of decision MC-5/13, the online reporting tool for the second full national reports was updated to reflect the amendments to the reporting format adopted by the Conference of the Parties in that decision. The online reporting tool was launched on 6 March 2025. Individual login credentials to access the online reporting tool were sent to all national focal points on 3 March 2025 to enable them to familiarize themselves with the updated tool prior to its launch.

32. As requested by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 6 of decision MC-5/13, the secretariat reflected all 19 amended reporting format questions in the guidance for completing the national reporting format (UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/21). The updated guidance document was posted on the Convention website on 6 March 2025 and was made available in English for parties to use in completing their second full national reports. Other language versions will be prepared subject to the availability of resources.

33. Five Minamata online sessions were conducted to support parties in preparing and submitting their second full national reports: the launch of the online reporting tool on 6 March 2025, sessions in English and French on 26 March 2025, a session in Spanish on 27 March 2025, and a session in Arabic on 15 April 2025. Sessions for new parties and a top-up session on completing the second full national report are planned for the fourth quarter of 2025.

IV. Analysis of national reports in preparation for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

34. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties is expected to be held in June 2027. Given the shortened intersessional period, the secretariat will prepare to immediately review the completeness of the reports, analyse the responses and work with parties to ensure that the report on the results is prepared in time for the eighth meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, in September 2026. The cooperation of parties in submitting national reports by the deadline of 31 December 2025 will be critical to ensuring that the secretariat's report is comprehensive and available for review by the Committee.

V. Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

35. The Conference of the Parties may wish to consider adopting a decision along the lines set out in the annex to the present note.

Annex

Draft decision MC-6/[--]: National reporting (article 21): second short national reports

The Conference of the Parties,

Emphasizing the importance of reporting, and recalling the obligation of parties to submit their national reports in accordance with article 21 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

Considering the report on the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee at its seventh meeting, including its conclusions on the reporting performance of parties,¹

Recognizing the challenges in implementing the trade obligations under article 3 of the Convention posed by informal or illegal primary mercury mining and trade in mercury that do not conform with the provisions of the Convention, including gathering data and reporting on such activities,

Welcoming the efforts of parties to report on informal or illegal primary mercury mining and trade, including as they relate to the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector,

Recalling paragraph 2 of decision MC-5/2, in which it encouraged parties that did not receive consent for all exports of mercury from the party's territory to provide more information, if any, in their next national reports,

1. *Welcomes* the high rate of reporting (86 per cent) by parties for their second short national reports, and acknowledges that there is room for further improvement in the reporting rate;
2. *Encourages* parties to achieve a high rate of reporting for the second full reports, due by 31 December 2025, and requests parties to submit their reports in a timely manner[, noting that the short intersessional period before the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties will limit the time for analysing the second full national reports and submitting a report to the Implementation and Compliance Committee];²
3. *Reiterates* its call to parties that have received consent to export mercury to parties and/or non-parties to provide to the secretariat either copies of the consent forms used or other suitable information in their reports submitted pursuant to article 21 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in order to show that the relevant requirements of article 3 of the Convention have been met;
4. *Takes note* of the updates to the guidance for completing the national reporting format as requested in decision MC-5/13,³ and encourages parties to use the guidance in the current and next reporting rounds;
5. *Requests* the secretariat:
 - (a) To collect information on best practices for reporting on informal or illegal activities that do not conform with the provisions of the Convention, with a view to identifying information that would be helpful for assessing their scale and nature, and to explore how such information could inform tools or reporting elements to support parties facing such challenges;
 - (b) To continue evaluating, on the basis of parties' experience of completing the second full reports, any issues that may arise from the reporting format, and to develop proposals for enhancing its ease of use and clarity for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its future meetings;
 - (c) To integrate relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at the present and future meetings into the guidance for completing the reporting format, ensuring that national reporting remains consistent with the updated requirements;
 - (d) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

¹ UNEP/MC/COP.6/14.

² Pending the date of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be decided by the Conference at its sixth meeting.

³ UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/21.