



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

Geneva, 3–7 November 2025

Item 4 (k) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the Conference of the
Parties: knowledge management****Knowledge management and digitalization to support parties to
the Minamata Convention on Mercury****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. At its fifth meeting, in decision [MC-5/16](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury noted with appreciation the digital strategy for the Convention set out in annex I to document UNEP/MC/COP.5/19. The strategy guides the work of the secretariat in leveraging technology and managing knowledge effectively to support the implementation of the Convention.
2. The digital strategy has three main components: digital ecosystem, building partnerships and digital literacy, and governance and innovation.
3. The present note provides an overview of the work of the secretariat in the area of knowledge management and digitalization during the intersessional period 2024–2025. The note is to be read in conjunction with document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/26, which introduces the Minamata Exchange Platform.

II. Implementation

4. In accordance with the digital ecosystem component of the digital strategy, the secretariat has advanced the Convention's digital presence through key enhancements to its website.¹ A new "Focus areas" section organizes content into 12 thematic workstreams, presenting, for each, a summary of the topic, relevant documents of meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and information on events and intersessional activities, making progress across the Convention more visible. Updated party profiles automatically display related project data, enabling dynamic, data-driven storytelling. Main menu navigation has also been redesigned for an improved user experience. These updates reflect a shift towards a broader and more user-centered architecture, offering multiple entry points and pathways for exploring the Convention's work. Between 1 January 2024 and 31 May 2025, the website received visits from 178,000 users, representing a nearly 200 per cent increase compared to the previous period

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

¹ <https://minamataconvention.org/en>.

(1 August 2022–31 December 2023). Total page views reached 560,000, a 105 per cent increase, and user interactions on the site totalled 1,700,000, representing an increase of more than 100 per cent.

5. The online reporting tool, designed to assist parties in fulfilling their obligations under article 21 of the Convention, was enhanced to accommodate amendments to the reporting format adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision MC-5/13 and new features to improve the user experience. On 4 March 2025, national focal points received personalized credentials with which to log into the online reporting tool to complete their countries' second full national reports, covering the period 2021–2024.

6. The secretariat designed data visualizations and dynamic dashboards for the results of the second short national reports and for Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Specific International Programme to Support Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance projects. The tools have enhanced the communication of progress and the impact of outreach. In the case of GEF, the secretariat piloted the interoperability of the Convention website and the GEF projects database on the GEF website as a way to collect the data automatically, consistently and without duplication of efforts. The secretariat is working with the GEF secretariat to improve the filtering of projects by multilateral environmental agreement, a functionality that will facilitate data harvesting for the different conventions.

7. As part of the preparations for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat has continued to expand and enhance the digital services provided to support the meeting by integrating online platforms to facilitate registration and access to documents and to provide information in a secure and user-friendly environment. Services at the sixth meeting will include a dedicated website section, including real-time schedule updates, news, live-streaming, and a safe digital space for in-session documents. All plenary sessions will be live-streamed in the six official languages of the United Nations to promote transparency and operational efficiency.

8. Under the building partnerships and digital literacy component of the digital strategy, the secretariat has strengthened collaboration with other multilateral environmental agreements, with a particular focus on the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA). Strategic collaboration has continued with the secretariat 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, especially on shared taxonomies, project data standards, and information technology support for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

9. In 2024 and 2025, the secretariat hosted and participated in knowledge-sharing events to foster digital cooperation. Those included a side event at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on digital transformation for environmental action and a technical session at the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. At the fourteenth meeting of the InforMEA Steering Committee, the secretariat presented advances in data interoperability with the GEF project database. The secretariat continues to leverage operational partnerships with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for registration and hosting services, and it engages actively with the Global Mercury Partnership to enhance information exchange and the digital tools that support the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

10. The secretariat has expanded its e-learning and capacity-building initiatives. The Minamata Tools platform,² launched in 2024, offers interactive training modules to support parties in understanding and implementing their obligations under the Convention. Developed in collaboration with the United Nations System Staff College and funded by the European Union, the modules cover priority areas for building capacity, such as mercury supply sources and trade, mercury-added products and processes, emissions, and national reporting.

11. The secretariat has continued its Minamata Online programme, delivering 15 sessions in 2024 and 13 to date in 2025, on topics such as preparations for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, trade in mercury, national reporting, and mercury in cosmetics. Several sessions were made available in the six official languages of the United Nations, including the training session on mercury-added products and a session on waste management. Nearly 1,000 participants from governments, academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society have participated in these live webinars and recorded sessions.

² <https://www.unssc.org/courses/minamata-tools-1>.

12. To strengthen internal capacity, and in line with the secretariat's digital strategy and the United Nations 2.0 initiative,³ which promotes innovation, digital transformation and data-driven decision-making across the United Nations system, the secretariat has initiated practical training for its staff in the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools. In May 2025, a tailored internal workshop was held to build foundational competencies in the use of generative AI, in accordance with the updated United Nations guidance on the responsible use of AI at work. The session focused on hands-on applications relevant to the secretariat's work and emphasized safe, ethical and effective use of AI through United Nations-approved platforms.

III. Advancing the digital strategy in the biennium 2026–2027

13. In the biennium 2026–2027, the secretariat will continue to advance its digital transformation agenda under activity 10 of the proposed programme of work and budget, as detailed in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/38. Among the activities foreseen is the piloting by the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, of the development of the Minamata Exchange Platform, envisioned as a key tool for facilitating structured and inclusive information exchange in accordance with articles 17 and 24 of the Convention. The platform will be designed to help build the capacity of parties and stakeholders in an efficient manner 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 manner. Further information about its proposed scope, pillars and implementation is presented in document UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/26.

14. The secretariat also plans to update the website by integrating the outcomes of the first effectiveness evaluation into relevant knowledge products; contribute to populating digital repositories on mercury-related issues, such as the Global Mercury Partnership knowledge hub; further digitize party submissions; conduct exploratory work on the use of artificial intelligence; and expand the e-learning portfolio.

IV. Suggested action by the Conference of the Parties

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

³ <https://un-two-zero.network/>.

Annex

Draft decision MC-6/[--]: Knowledge management and implementation of the digital strategy

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the digital strategy of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as noted with appreciation in decision MC-5/16, to guide the work of the secretariat in leveraging technology and managing knowledge effectively to support the implementation of the Convention,

Emphasizing the benefits of digitalization in knowledge management and capacity-building for advancing progress towards the objective of the Convention, in accordance with the forward-looking vision of the United Nations 2.0 initiative of fostering innovation, collaboration, and a digital culture across the United Nations system,

Recognizing the need for information exchange in accordance with articles 17 and 24 of the Convention to facilitate cooperation in the exchange of information between parties and relevant stakeholders,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made by the secretariat in implementing the digital strategy during the biennium 2024–2025;
 2. *Requests* the secretariat to continue the implementation of the digital strategy in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Minamata Convention on Mercury for the biennium 2026–2027 and to prioritize relevant activities for progressive advancement of the strategy in future bienniums;
 3. *Recognizes* the Convention website as the primary source of public information and knowledge about the Convention, and requests the secretariat to keep it updated in accordance with the digital strategy;
 4. *Agrees* to support the development of the Minamata Exchange Platform for the purpose of information exchange pursuant to articles 17 and 24 of the Convention, subject to the availability of resources;
 5. *Encourages* the secretariat to continue cooperation and coordination activities with the Global Mercury Partnership to advance shared knowledge initiatives concerning mercury-related issues, including the joint development of data products, communication tools and knowledge platforms, while ensuring complementarity;
 6. *Requests* the secretariat to continue collaborating with the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and other partners, including the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) initiative, on knowledge management, digitalization and information exchange;
 7. *Also requests* the secretariat to continue collaborating with the secretariat 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 to exchange information and share experiences and best practices relating to knowledge management and digitalization;
 8. *Further requests* the secretariat to report on progress in the implementation of the digital strategy to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.
-