

THE FUTURE WE WANT MINAMATA CONVENTION

“ This multilateral environmental agreement is one of the world’s youngest, and like any youngster it holds massive potential. Everyone on the planet is exposed to mercury: only concerted, united action through this Convention and all of its allies can stop this toxic heavy metal endangering human and environmental health. ”
Inger Andersen, UN Environment Executive Director

2013

After years of meetings and five intergovernmental sessions, the text of the Minamata Convention is adopted by over 140 countries at the **Diplomatic Conference in Kumamoto** (Japan).

The signatures demonstrate the countries' resolve to work towards the Convention's objective of **protecting human health and the environment from mercury**.

2017

The **Minamata Convention on Mercury** enters into force on 16 August.

It is named after **Minamata Bay** (Japan) to keep in mind the lessons of the tragic health damage by industrial mercury pollution in the 1950-60s.

The **1st Conference of the Parties (COP-1)** adopts guidance on BAT/BEP for controlling mercury emissions as well as trade in mercury, and on reducing and eliminating mercury use in ASGM.

2020

Deadline for phasing out manufacture, import and export of listed **mercury-added products** (including certain lamps, batteries, cosmetics, pesticides).

2021

COP-4.1 (online segment) continues the multilateral work, including review of the annexes and **second reporting deadline** for parties to the Convention.

TODAY

2023

COP-5 to be held in Geneva, Switzerland.

2032

Deadline for ending **primary mercury mining** in known producing parties.

2016

The **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-7)** at the Dead Sea (Jordan) finalizes the Best Available Techniques / Best Environmental Practices guidance (BAT/BEP) on air emissions.

Agreement on guidance for developing **National Action Plans** on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM).

2018

Deadline for phasing out any **acetaldehyde production using mercury** (responsible for the pollution of Minamata Bay).

COP-2 adopts guidelines on the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury other than waste mercury.

2019

COP-3 adopts guidance on the management of contaminated sites. First reporting deadline for parties.

The Convention also includes measures to phase down mercury dental amalgam and to reduce mercury by half when used in vinyl chloride monomer production processes (used for plastic products).

2022

COP-4.2 (in-person segment) in Bali, Indonesia focuses on **effectiveness evaluation**, mainstreaming gender within the activities and the **first amendment** to the text of the Convention.

140 PARTIES

2025

Deadline for phasing out **mercury-cell chlor-alkali production** (an outmoded process for chlorine production) and **eight new product categories** (photographic film and spacecraft propellant, among others) according to the COP-4 decision.

MULTILATERALISM MAKES MERCURY HISTORY

* This list is not meant to be exhaustive but rather a small sample of the Convention's multilateral work.



MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY