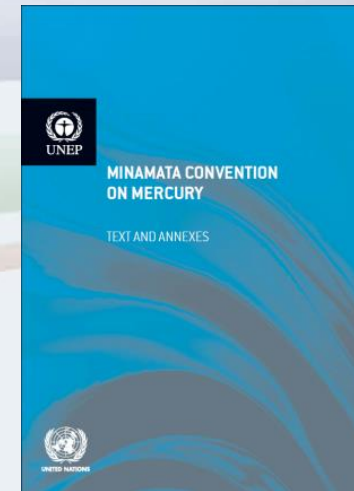


Outcomes the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-6), 3-7 November 2025, Switzerland

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Minamata Convention on Mercury



Objectives of the convention

To protect the human health and environment from anthropogenic emissions and release of mercury and mercury compounds

- ✓ October 2013, the Minamata Convention on Mercury opened for signature and was signed by 128 governments
- ✓ South Africa ratified and became a Party April 19, 2019
- ✓ **Convention come into force August 16, 2017**
- ✓ First Conference of the Parties (COP1) September 2017
- ✓ Convention comprises of 35 articles
- ✓ Currently MC has 153 Parties
- ✓ Africa 44, Asia-Pacific 37



Key Outcomes of COP-6

- Parties agreed to phase out **dental amalgam by 2034**, strengthen action on **mercury-added skin-lightening products**, enhance efforts on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (**ASGM**), and reinforce cooperation on mercury **supply, trade and waste**, among other key decisions.
- Parties also agreed to step up global efforts to eliminate **mercury-added skin-lightening products**, enhancing enforcement and cooperation with the **World Health Organization** and other partners to curb illegal trade and protect public health.
- In addition, some **extensions** were granted to Parties for specific mercury-added products still transitioning toward phase-out

Key Outcomes of COP-6

- Bringing together over 1,000 participants in person and nearly 4,000 online viewers.
- **Dental Amalgam:** Agreement to end its use by 2034
- Banned mercury in skin-lightening products and certain industrial catalysts
- .ASGM: Updated guidance for National Action Plans (NAPs) and support for involving Indigenous Peoples.
- Health Focus: Actions to protect women and children from mercury exposure.
- Waste: Reviewed mercury waste thresholds.
- Trade: Discussions on controlling mercury compound trade. Co-Benefits: Enhanced links with the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Key Outcomes of COP 6

- To tackle the **supply and trade of mercury**, the COP adopted a decision updating guidance on identifying mercury stocks and the use of forms, COP requested the Secretariat to develop strategies to address illegal trade and prepare guidance on harmonized customs codes
- On **biodiversity**, the COP encouraged Parties to implement the roadmap for enhancing co-benefits between the MC and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including integrating actions to reduce Hg pollution from ASGM into biodiversity strategies.
- On **capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer**, and on the **financial mechanism**, Parties signified the importance of a robust replenishment of funds in the next programmatic period. GEF-9 will be critical in supporting Parties to meet the obligation on time.

Key Outcomes of COP 6

- Parties also adopted a decision outlining preparations for the **first effectiveness evaluation** of the Minamata Convention, setting in motion a key milestone to assess global progress of the Convention's impact.
- Parties called for closer collaboration with the **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution**, the **Global Framework on Chemicals**, the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**, and others.
- Stakeholder participation reached new levels at COP-6, with **Indigenous Peoples Forum on Mercury**, the launch of the **Convention's Women's Caucus**, and the **Youth Declaration** are milestones in reaching the objective of the Convention to protect human health and the environment from mercury pollution.

What does a Scientist take away from COP -6

- On **capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer**, and on the **financial mechanism**, Parties signified the importance of a robust replenishment of funds in the next programmatic period. GEF-9 will be critical in supporting Parties to meet the obligation on time.
- Parties also adopted a decision outlining preparations for the **first effectiveness evaluation** of the Minamata Convention, setting in motion a key milestone to assess global progress of the Convention's impact

Take Home Message for Scientist away from COP -6

- **Effectiveness Evaluation:** The first effectiveness evaluation of the Convention (UNEP/MC/COP.6/16), the preliminary draft annotated outline of the evaluation (UNEP/MC/COP.6/INF/22), and an update on the work of the Open-ended Scientific Group.
- Several Parties expressed concern about the delays observed by the working groups in receiving data in time for the reporting processes.
- Parties noted the importance of the lessons learned in the final report to be presented at COP-7.

Take Home Message for Scientist away from COP -6

- Parties emphasized that the two working groups fully consider and verify the validity, comparability, and accuracy of the data and their methods.
- Parties called for support and enhanced cooperation in establishing baseline data as part of the review process.
- Parties underscored the need for capacity building as well as financial and technical assistance to support national reporting.

Conclusion

- **Final Decision:**
- In its final decision (UNEP/MC/COP.6/16), the COP requests Parties to submit their full national reports under Article 21 of the Convention to the Secretariat by 31 December 2025, in order to ensure that the most recent information is available for the first effectiveness evaluation