

# The Minamata Convention on Mercury



# Table of contents

1. Introduction
2. Benefits from ratification
3. Highlights of the Convention
4. Other key issues
5. Reporting to the Conference of Parties
6. Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties



# Introduction

## Mercury (1/3)

### Mercury is

- A naturally occurring chemical element (Hg)
- Heavy, silvery-white metal, liquid at room temperature, evaporates easily, blends easily with metals (amalgams)
- Present in the earth's crust in the form of the insoluble mineral cinnabar (mercury sulfide, Hg(II)S), but rare (average crustal abundance by mass of only 0.08 ppm)
- Released naturally (e.g., volcanoes, forest fires) and through human activities (e.g., coal burning, metal mining and smelting, cement production, oil refining, burning and land-filling of consumer products)
- Three forms and many compounds:
  - Elemental mercury (metallic mercury): rarely found in nature, refined from mercury sulfide
  - Inorganic mercury compounds (mercury salts): primarily mercury sulfide (found in the environment), mercuric chloride (synthetic), mercuric oxide (synthetic) and mercurous chloride (synthetic)
  - Organic mercury compounds: primarily methyl mercury (formed in the environment from the methylation of the inorganic mercurial ion)

# Introduction

## Mercury (2/3)

### Mercury is also

- Highly toxic
- Once released, travels and cycles long distances through air, water, land, sediments
- Persists and bioaccumulates (methyl mercury) in the food chain (animals and plants)

### Main sources of exposure

- Occupational settings, in particular in ASGM and industries using mercury or mercury compounds
- Dental amalgams
- Other mercury-added products
- Through the diet (fish products, fungicide-treated grains, animals fed with such grain)

# Introduction

## Mercury (2/3)

### Examples of mercury-added products

- Thermometers
- Barometers
- Pressure-sensing devices
- Batteries
- Lamps
- Dental amalgams
- Skin-lightening creams
- Soaps
- Latex paint
- Pharmaceuticals
- Pesticides

### Manufacturing processes using mercury or mercury compounds

- ASGM
- Chlor-alkali production
- Acetaldehyde production
- Vinyl chloride monomer production
- Sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate
- Production of polyurethane

### Other industries releasing mercury

- Coal-fired power plants
- Coal-fired industrial boilers
- Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
- Waste incineration facilities
- Cement clinker production facilities

# Introduction

## The health, socioeconomic and environmental problem (1/4)

### Some effects of mercury acute exposure on humans

- Central nervous system: reduction in cognitive function (foetus state most vulnerable), tremors, irritability, insomnia, memory loss, neuromuscular changes, headaches, slowed sensory and motor nerve function,, blindness, deafness, impairment of speech
- Kidney effects:from mild transient proteinuria to acute renal failure
- Immune system effects: immunosuppression, immunostimulation, autoimmune reactions, hypersensitivity
- Gastrointestinal effects and respiratory effects: chest pains, dyspnea, cough, pulmonary function impairment, respiratory failure, interstitial pneumonitis
- Cardiovascular diseases (especially myocardial infraction)
- Acrodynia (mercury poisoning)
- Skin rashes and dermatitis
- Reproductive/developmental effects: developmental delays, abnormal reflexes, mental retardation, ataxia, deafness, constriction of the visual field, blindness, and cerebral palsy

- Lethal (15-60 mg/kg), premature death

# Introduction

## The health, socioeconomic and environmental problem (2/4)

### Health effects depends on a number of factors

- Age and health of the person exposed (unborn infants are the most vulnerable)
- Length and amount of exposure (populations with marine diets are more highly exposed)
- Route of exposure (breathing, eating, skin contact)
- Form of mercury influences speed of effects



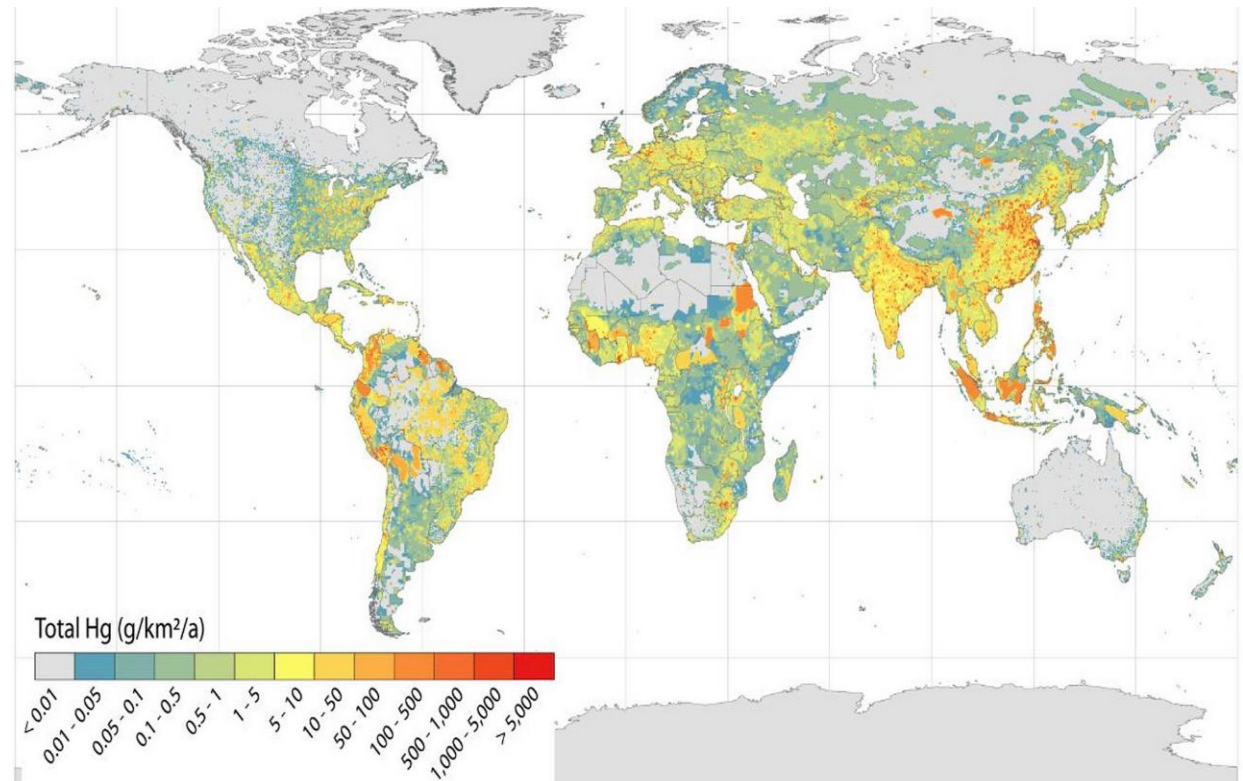
# Introduction

## The health, socioeconomic and environmental problem (3/4)

### Breakdown of emissions (2015)

- Anthropogenic (~30%): more than 2,200 tonnes/year
- Environmental processes (~60%): re-emission of mercury previously deposited in soils and sediments, mostly derived from earlier anthropogenic emissions and releases
- Natural sources (~10%)

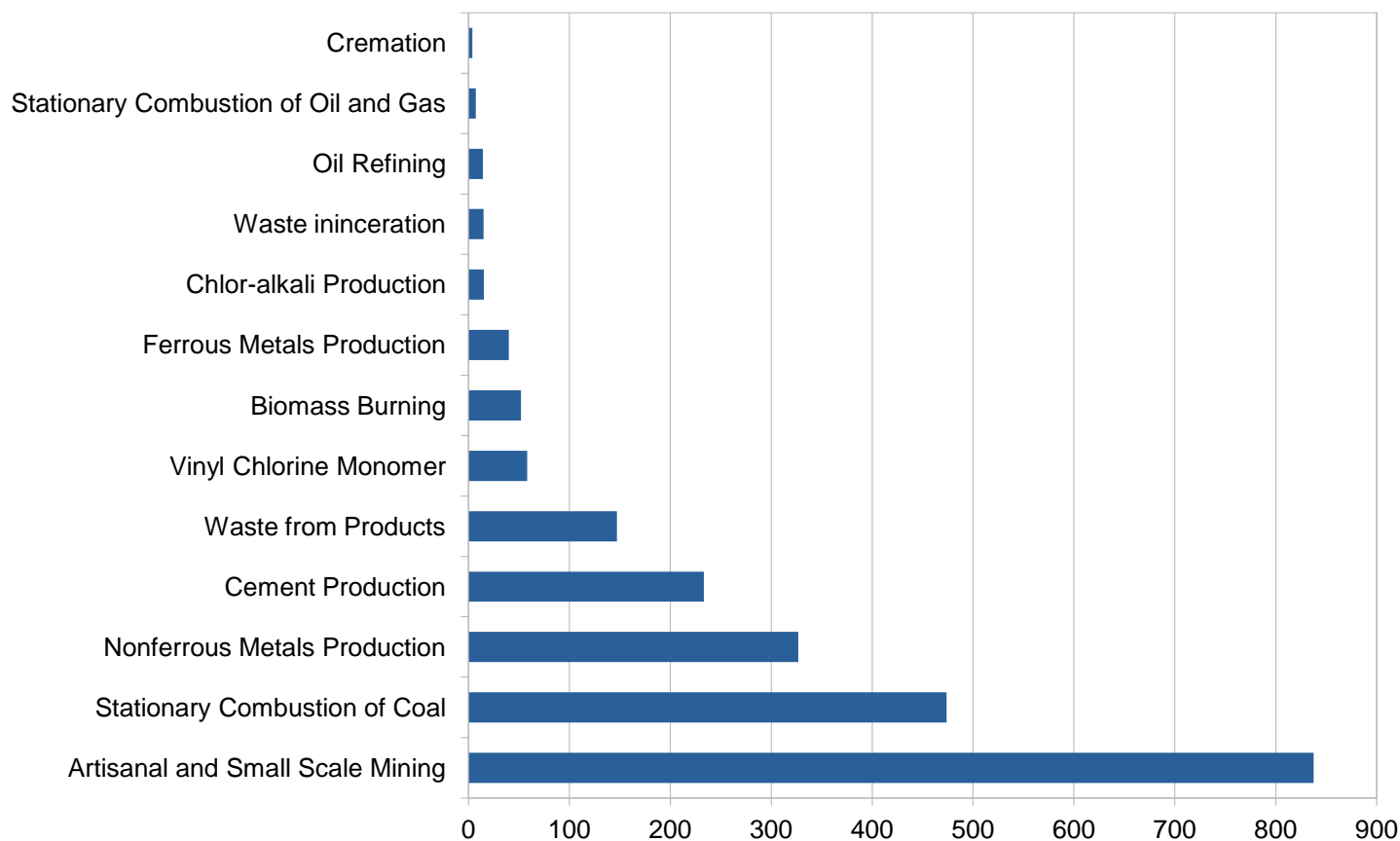
### Worldwide distribution of anthropogenic mercury emissions



# Introduction

## The health, socioeconomic and environmental problem (4/4)

Anthropogenic mercury emissions to the atmosphere by sector (tonnes, 2018)

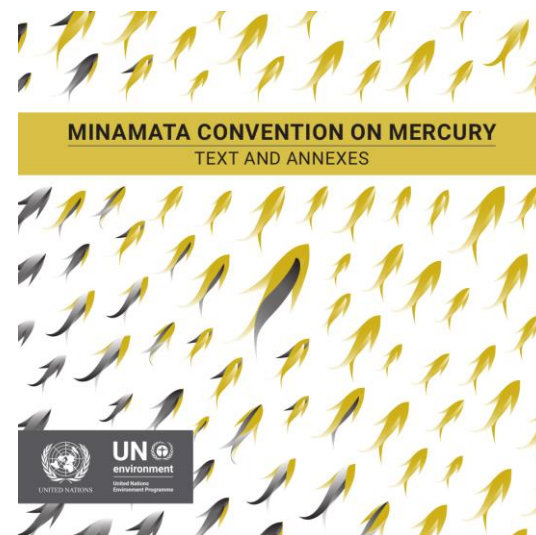


# Introduction

## The Convention

### What is the Minamata Convention?

- The global treaty on mercury
- Protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury
- Adopted in 2013, came into force in 2017
- 133 Parties (as of 1 September 2021)
- 35 articles and 5 annexes
- Provisions that relate to entire life cycle of mercury:
  - Direct mining of mercury, its export and import, its safe storage, its disposal once as waste
  - Controls and reductions across a range of products, processes and industries



# Introduction

## The Convention and its links to development



## **2/6. Benefits from ratification**

# Benefits from ratification

## Improved human health and quality of the environment

- Prohibits primary mercury mining
- Regulates mercury trade
- Limits mercury use in mercury-added products and in manufacturing processes
- Establishes control measures to reduce the use of mercury and its emissions and releases to the environment
- Encourages the reduction, and where feasible elimination, of the use of mercury in ASGM
- Provides a framework to limit diversion of mercury to ASGM
- Encourages the management of environmentally friendly mercury-containing waste
- Boosts medical care and improves training of health-care professionals in preventing and identifying mercury-related effects
- Improves the protection of current and future populations from the adverse impacts on mercury

# Benefits from ratification

## Broad, positive impacts

- Shift in spending, away from healthcare, towards other goods and services (inconclusive impact on GDP)
- Reduction in mortality rates and improved health (higher GDP):
  - Improvement in labour participation, productivity and competitiveness
  - Lower business costs and reduced prices
  - Higher level of households spending
  - Higher tax receipts

# Benefits from ratification

## Other qualitative benefits

- Provides legal basis to issue legislation and policies to control mercury and monitor mercury emissions
- Ensures nationally consistent approach in the industrial, health, ASGM and other sectors
- Encourages transition to non mercury technologies and processes in the industrial and health sectors
- Encourages the energy sector to reduce mercury release to air, water and soil
- Increases the capacity of health workers to address mercury effects
- Gives access to international assistance and information exchange to eliminate mercury use and address its impacts
- Ensures seat at the negotiating table on matters related to the Minamata Convention



## **3/6. Highlights of the Convention**

# Highlights of the Convention

## Introduction

### The Convention begins with

- Preamble: sets background, previous relevant decisions, cooperative actions
- Objective (Article 1): to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds
- Definitions (Article 2): sets out definitions used in more than one article

### Convention articles can then be divided into:

- Operational articles: describe the obligations on Parties to reduce anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds
- Support to Parties: financial resources, capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer, implementation and compliance committee
- Information and awareness raising, including actions to reduce impacts of mercury
- Administrative matters

# Highlights of the Convention

## Operational articles (1/5)

### Mercury supply sources and trade (Article 3)

- New primary mercury mining not allowed
- Existing primary mining of mercury only allowed for 15 years maximum
- Mercury not to be used for ASGM
- Party to identify stocks > 50 metric tonnes and sources of supply > 10 metric tonnes/year
- Excess mercury from the chlor-alkali production sector shall be retired as ESM (shall not be used for other purposes)
- Import of mercury only with written consent from the importing Party

### Products and Processes and exemptions (Articles 4, 5 and 6)

- Each Party to take measures to not allow manufacture, import or export of mercury added products in part 1 of Annex A after phase-out date (noting exemptions and exclusions)
- Each Party to take measures to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in part I of Annex B after the phase-out date (noting exemptions)
- Parties can register for an exemption from phase-out dates on becoming a Party

# Highlights of the Convention

## Annex A - Part I: Products subject to Article 4, §1

Mercury-added products	Date after which the manufacture, import or export of the product shall not be allowed (phase-out Date)
Batteries, except for button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%	2020
Switches and relays, except very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge, switch or relay	2020
Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner	2020
Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (b) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp	2020
High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes	2020
Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays: (a) short length (≤ 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp 2020 (b) medium length (> 500 mm and ≤ 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp (c) long length (> 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp	2020
Cosmetics (with mercury content above 1ppm), including skin lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available	2020
Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics	2020
The following non-electronic measuring devices except non-electronic measuring devices installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available: (a) barometers; (b) hygrometers; (c) manometers; (d) thermometers; (e) sphygmomanometers. <del>The intention is not to cover cosmetics, soaps or creams with trace contaminants of mercury</del>	2020

# Highlights of the Convention

## Annex A: Products subject to Article 4, §3

Mercury-added products	Provisions
Dental amalgam	<p>Measures to be taken by a Party to phase down the use of dental amalgam shall take into account the Party's domestic circumstances and relevant international guidance and shall include two or more of the measures from the following list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Setting national objectives aiming at dental caries prevention and health promotion, thereby minimizing the need for dental restoration;</li><li>(ii) Setting national objectives aiming at minimizing its use;</li><li>(iii) Promoting the use of cost-effective and clinically effective mercury-free alternatives for dental restoration;</li><li>(iv) Promoting research and development of quality mercury-free materials for dental restoration;</li><li>(v) Encouraging representative professional organizations and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals and students on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives and on promoting best management practices;</li><li>(vi) Discouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour dental amalgam use over mercury-free dental restoration;</li><li>(vii) Encouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour the use of quality alternatives to dental amalgam for dental restoration;</li><li>(viii) Restricting the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form;</li><li>(ix) Promoting the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and land</li></ul>

# Highlights of the Convention

## Annex B - Part I: Processes subject to Article 5, §2

Manufacturing processes using mercury or mercury compounds	Phase-out date
Chlor-alkali production	2025
Acetaldehyde production in which mercury or mercury compounds are used as a catalyst	2018

# Highlights of the Convention

## Annex B - Part II: Processes subject to Article 5, §3

Mercury using process	Provisions
Vinyl chloride monomer production	<p>Measures to be taken by the Parties shall include but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Reduce the use of mercury in terms of per unit production by 50 per cent by the year 2020 against 2010 use;</li> <li>(ii) Promoting measures to reduce the reliance on mercury from primary mining;</li> <li>(iii) Taking measures to reduce emissions and releases of mercury to the environment;</li> <li>(iv) Supporting research and development in respect of mercury-free catalysts and processes;</li> <li>(v) Not allowing the use of mercury five years after the Conference of the Parties has established that mercury-free catalysts based on existing processes have become technically and economically feasible;</li> <li>(vi) Reporting to the Conference of the Parties on its efforts to develop and/or identify alternatives and phase out mercury use in accordance with Article 21.</li> </ul>
Sodium or Potassium Methylate or Ethylate	<p>Measures to be taken by the Parties shall include but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Measures to reduce the use of mercury aiming at the phase out of this use as fast as possible and within 10 years of the entry into force of the Convention;</li> <li>(ii) Reduce emissions and releases in terms of per unit production by 50 per cent by 2020 compared to 2010;</li> <li>(iii) Prohibiting the use of fresh mercury from primary mining;</li> <li>(iv) Supporting research and development in respect of mercury-free processes;</li> <li>(v) Not allowing the use of mercury five years after the Conference of the Parties has established that mercury-free processes have become technically and economically feasible;</li> <li>(vi) Reporting to the Conference of the Parties on its efforts to develop and/or identify alternatives and phase out mercury use in accordance with Article 21.</li> </ul>
Production of polyurethane using mercury containing catalysts	<p>Measures to be taken by the Parties shall include but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Taking measures to reduce the use of mercury, aiming at the phase out of this use as fast as possible, within 10 years of the entry into force of the Convention;</li> <li>(ii) Taking measures to reduce the reliance on mercury from primary mercury mining;</li> <li>(iii) Taking measures to reduce emissions and releases of mercury to the environment;</li> <li>(iii) Encouraging research and development in respect of mercury-free catalysts and processes;</li> <li>(iv) Reporting to the Conference of the Parties on its efforts to develop and/or identify alternatives and phase out mercury use in accordance with Article 21. Paragraph 6 of Article 5 shall not apply to this manufacturing process.</li> </ul>

# Highlights of the Convention

## Operational articles (2/5)

### Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (Article 7)

- All Parties to reduce and where feasible eliminate ASGM in which mercury amalgamation is used
- Parties with ASGM that is more than insignificant must notify the secretariat and prepare and implement a National Action Plan
- Requirements for NAP set out in Annex C:
  - National objectives & reduction targets (§1a)
  - List of worst practices to be eliminated (§1b)
  - Formalization or regulation of the sector (§1c)
  - Baseline estimates of the quantities of mercury used and the practices employed (§1d)
  - Schedule for implementation of the national action plan (§1k)
  - A series of strategies (§1 e to j)
  - Additional strategies to achieve its objectives (§2)



# Highlights of the Convention

## Operational articles (3/5)

### Emissions (Article 8)

- Parties with relevant sources to take measures to control and where feasible reduce mercury emissions
  - Controls on new sources with BAT/BEP within 5 years
  - Controls on existing sources through one or more measures within 10 years
- Source categories set out in Annex D:
  - Coal-fired power plants
  - Coal-fired industrial boilers
  - Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
  - Waste incineration facilities
  - Cement clinker production facilities
- Plan to control emissions may be included in the implementation plan defined in Article 20
- Inventory of emissions from relevant sources to be prepared within 5 years and maintained

# Highlights of the Convention

## Operational articles (4/5)

### Releases (Article 9)

- Parties to control and, where feasible, reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to land and water from relevant point sources
- Relevant sources: significant anthropogenic point source of release as identified by a Party that is not addressed in other provisions of this Convention
- Relevant point sources categories to be identified within 3 years and on a regular basis thereafter
- Plan to control releases may be included in the implementation plan defined in Article 20
- Inventory of releases from relevant sources to be prepared within 5 years and maintained
- Party with relevant sources to take measures to control releases, including one or more of the following:
  - Release limit values
  - BAT/BEP
  - Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury releases
  - Alternative measures

# Highlights of the Convention

## Operational articles (5/5)

### Interim storage (Article 10)

- Interim storage of mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a Party under this Convention (includes use in ASGM) to be undertaken in a sound manner
- Storage to take into account guidelines and be in accordance with requirements adopted by the COP

### Mercury wastes (Article 11)

- Management of mercury wastes to be undertaken in an environmentally sound manner
- Management to take into account the guidelines developed under the Basel Convention and any requirements that the COP adopts
- Recovery, recycling, reclamation or direct re-use only for a use allowed under the Convention or for sound disposal

### Contaminated sites (Article 12)

- Party to develop appropriate strategies for identifying and assessing contaminated sites
- Actions to reduce risks to be performed in a sound manner, incorporating, where appropriate, an assessment of the risks to human health and the environment

# Highlights of the Convention

## Support to Parties

### Financial resources and mechanism (Article 13)

- Global Environment Facility Trust Fund
- Specific international Programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance

### Capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer (Article 14)

- Parties (within capabilities) to provide capacity-building and technical assistance to developing country Parties to assist them in implementing the Convention's obligations

### Implementation and compliance committee (Article 15)

- Mechanism to support Parties in the implementation of and compliance with the Convention
- Examine both individual and systemic issues and make recommendations to the COP

# Highlights of the Convention

## Information and awareness articles (1/3)

### Health aspects (Article 16)

- Parties encouraged to promote actions related to public health, in particular towards population at risk
- COP to consult with WHO, ILO and other IGOs

### Information exchange (Article 17)

- Parties to facilitate exchange of information

### Public information, awareness and education (Article 18)

- Parties (within capabilities) to promote and facilitate provision of information

# Highlights of the Convention

## Information and awareness articles (2/3)

### Research, development and monitoring (Article 19)

- Parties to cooperate to develop and improve:
  - Inventories of use, consumption and emissions and releases
  - Modelling and monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds (population and media)
  - Assessment of impact on human health and the environment
  - Harmonised methodologies
  - Information on environmental cycle, transport, transformation and fate of mercury and mercury compounds
  - Information on commerce and research on technical and economic availability of products, processes, BAT/BEP

### Implementation plans (Article 20)

- Parties may (not an obligation) develop and execute an implementation plan for meeting the obligations under the Convention

# Highlights of the Convention

## Information and awareness articles (3/3)

### Reporting (Article 21)

- Parties to report to the COP: initial short report in 2019, full report in 2021
- Reporting format covers all articles
- Further details at: <https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/parties/reporting>

### Effectiveness evaluation (Article 22)

- COP to evaluate effectiveness of the Convention, beginning no later than 6 years after entry into force
- COP to initiate establishment of arrangements for providing itself with comparable monitoring data
- Evaluation to be conducted on the basis of scientific, environmental, technical, financial and economic data:
  - Reports provided to the COP on monitoring
  - Reporting under Article 21
  - Information related to information and compliance committee

Reporting and information on Articles 13 and 14

## 4/6. Other key issues



# Other key issues

## Gender and mercury (1/2)

### Contamination sources

- Seafood polluted by mercury (women in SIDS)
- Skin whitening products (social constructs)
- Dental amalgams (patients and dental clinic staff, high proportion of women of child-bearing age)
- ASGM, artisanal gold shops (4-5MM women and children among the 10-15MM ASGM miners in 70 countries)
- Mercury exposure of women results in a higher incidence of hormonal disorders, reduced fertility and impact on foetus
- A study conducted in 2017 by IPEN showed that 42% of 1044 of women of child-bearing age surveyed in 37 locations in 25 countries had mercury body burdens that exceeded the reference level of 1 ppm total mercury in hair

### Socioeconomic impacts of mercury for women in ASGM

- Marginalization, including lack of formal rights and decision power
- Lack of access to or control over land, water, technologies and fair markets
- Vulnerability to sexual violence and exploitation
- Additional role as the primary providers of domestic services, i.e. women work 5-8 hours longer in a day

# Other key issues

## Gender and mercury (2/2)

### In the Convention

- Notes awareness of "health concerns, especially in developing countries, resulting from exposure to mercury of vulnerable populations, especially women, children, and through them future generations."
- NAPs to include "Strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of childbearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining."
- References to the needs of vulnerable groups: articles 16 (health aspects), article 18 (public information, awareness and education), article 19 (research, development and monitoring) and article 22 (on effectiveness evaluation)

### Focus on gender in the Convention's Programme of Work for the biennium 2020-2021 (Activity 13)

- Development of a gender strategy to mainstream gender within the Convention's programme of work
- Production of case studies covering the life-cycle of mercury to illustrate the differentiated gendered impacts
- Organization of gender training to support Parties in integrating gender in the implementation of the Convention

# Other key issues

## Amendments to the Convention and its annexes (1/4)

### Amendments of the Convention (Article 26)

- May be proposed by any Party
- Shall be adopted by the Conference of the Parties
- Proposed amendment to be communicated to Parties by the Secretariat 6 months minimum before relevant COP

### Adoption and amendments of annexes (Article 27)

- Annexes shall form an integral part of the Convention (i.e. amended as per Article 26)
- Additional annexes shall be restricted to procedural, scientific, technical or administrative matters

### Review process of annexes A and B

- Initiated at COP-3 (2019, decision MC-3/1)
- Established an ad hoc group of experts on review of annexes A and B
- Parties and others submitted information on the use of mercury in products and processes, and the availability, feasibility, risks and benefits to alternatives
- Considering feedback from ad hoc group, several countries proposed amendments to be considered at COP-4

## Proposals for new entries into Annex A

### Part I: Products subject to Article 4, §1

Proposed by	Mercury-added products	Phase-out
<b>Canada and Switzerland (for COP4, 2022)</b>	Counter balancing devices including tire balancers and wheel weights	2025
	Photographic film and paper	2025
	Propellant for satellites and spacecraft	2025
	Very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge switch or relay	2025
<b>AFRICA REGION (for COP4, 2022)</b>	Compact fluorescent lamps with an integrated ballast (CFL.i) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts	2024
	Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes, (a) Triband phosphor ≤ 60 watts; (b) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts	2025
	Cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFL) and external electrode fluorescent lamps (EEFL) for electronic displays of all lengths.	2024
<b>EU (for COP4, 2022)</b>	Button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%	2023
	Halophosphate phosphor linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes	2023
	The following non-electronic measuring devices: (a) strain gauges to be used in plethysmographs; (b) tensiometers	2023
	The following electrical and electronic measuring devices: (a) melt pressure transducers, transmitters and sensors; (b) mercury vacuum pumps	2023
	Polyurethane, polyurethane including canisters for the application of polyurethane	2023

# Other key issues

## Amendments to the Convention and its annexes (3/4)

### Proposals for new entries into Annex A

- Part II: Products subject to Article 4, §3

	Mercury-added products	Provisions
A F R I C A	Dental amalgam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By 1 January 2023, each Party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury shall issue a communication recommending that only non-mercury dental filling materials be used in children and in women of childbearing age.</li> <li>2. By 1 January 2025, each Party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury shall set out a national plan concerning the measures it intends to implement to phase out the use of dental amalgam. Parties shall make their national plans publicly available on the internet and shall transmit them to the Secretariat.</li> <li>3. By 1 January 2027, the manufacture and import of amalgam shall cease. To account for exceptions and accommodate the transition to mercury-free dentistry, Parties may permit domestic sales inside their country for two more years.</li> <li>4. By 1 January 2029, domestic sales of amalgam inside countries, as stipulated in point 3 above shall also cease.</li> </ol>
E U	Dental amalgam	<p>By 1 January 2024, Parties shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Provide that dental amalgam is only used in pre-dosed encapsulated form 1 ;</li> <li>(ii) Prohibit the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners;</li> <li>(iii) Ensure that operators of dental facilities in which dental amalgam is used or dental amalgam fillings or teeth containing such fillings are removed, equip their facilities with amalgam separators with a retention efficiency level of 95% 2, for the retention and collection of amalgam particles, including those contained in used water;</li> <li>(iv) No longer allow the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth, of children under 15 years and of pregnant or breastfeeding women, except when deemed strictly necessary by the dental practitioner based on the specific medical needs of the patient.</li> </ol> <p><i>1 Amalgam capsules such as those described in international standards ISO 13897:2018 and 24234:2015 are considered suitable for use by dental practitioners.</i></p> <p><i>2 Compliance of amalgam separators shall be based on relevant international standards, including ISO 11143:2008.</i></p>

# Other key issues

## Amendments to the Convention and its annexes (4/4)

### Proposal for new entries into Annex B

- Part I: Processes subject to Article 5, §2

	Manufacturing processes using mercury or mercury compounds	Phase-out date
EU	Production of polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts	2023

# Other key issues

## Links to other Conventions and instruments

### A comprehensive regime for chemicals and hazardous waste

- Minamata Convention follows and builds on the BRS Conventions
- Integrated approaches:
  - GEF, Special Programme
  - Chemicals, wastes and climate change: interlinkages and potential for coordinated action (Secretariats of the BRS and Minamata Conventions, 2021)

### Minamata Convention text

- Roles of the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions recognized (preamble)
- Guidelines on interim storage of mercury to take into account BC guidelines (Art. 10, §3)
- Relevant definitions of BC applied to mercury wastes for BC Parties (Art. 11, §1)
- Quantity thresholds for mercury waste defined in collaboration with BC (Art. 11, §2)
- Mercury waste managed taking into account guidelines developed by the BC (Art. 11, §3)
- Trans-boundary movements of mercury waste in line with BC for BC Parties (Art. 11, §3)



BASEL CONVENTION



ROTTERDAM  
CONVENTION

## **5/6. Reporting to the Conference of Parties**



# Reporting to the Conference of Parties

## Reporting obligations

### Article 17

- Each Party to designate a national focal point for the exchange of information including with regard to the consent of importing Parties (Art. 3)

### Article 21

- Each Party to report to the COP on:
  - Measures taken to implement the Convention, as called for in Articles 3, 5, 7, 8 and 9
  - The effectiveness of such measures
  - Possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention

### Article 23

- COP to keep under continuous review and evaluation the implementation of the Convention
- COP Regularly to review all information made available to it and the Secretariat pursuant to Art. 21

# Reporting to the Conference of Parties

## Latest discussions and requirements

### COP-1 agreed on (decision MC-1/8)

- Reporting formats
  - Every two years, short format report (4 questions: quantity of mercury mined, stock of mercury, consent before export of mercury, facilities for final disposal of mercury)
  - Every four years, long format report (43 questions: 32 questions on control measures, 11 questions on enabling and supportive context)
- First short report submitted by 31 December 2019 (available online)
- First full format report to be submitted online by 31 December 2021:
  - Online tool follows the agreed reporting format
  - Tool available in the six official UN languages
  - National Focal Point receives login credentials to submit report
- Secretariat to provide information, incl. the reporting rate, to the COP to assist in its review pursuant to Art. 23
- Draft guidance for the completion of the National Reporting Format (2021) (decision MC-3/13)

# Reporting to the Conference of Parties Compliance

## Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC) (Article 15)

- Mechanism to support Parties in the implementation of and compliance with the Convention
- Examine both individual and systemic issues
- Make recommendations to the COP
- Consists of 15 members nominated by Parties and elected by the COP

## §4 of Article 15 states that the ICC may consider

- Written submissions from any Party with respect to its own compliance
- National reports in accordance with Article 21
- Requests from the COP

**6/6. Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties**

# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties

## Global Environment Facility (1/2)

### The GEF, main financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Article 13)

- GEF to provide new, predictable, adequate and timely financial resources to meet costs in support of implementation of this Convention
- GEF to provide resources to meet the agreed incremental costs of global environmental benefits and the agreed full costs of some enabling activities
- First Conference of the Parties (COP-1) defined the guidance to the GEF in 2017 (UNEP/MC/COP.1/8)
- GEF-6 (2014-2018) invested US\$141MM in programming that delivered:
  - Projects that will reduce over 600 metric tons of mercury per year from key sectors including ASGM and the production of vinyl chloride monomer
  - Support to 110 countries to conduct Minamata Initial Assessments and to 32 countries to conduct ASGM National Action Plans
- GEF-7 (2018-2022) funding for mercury programs is US\$206MM, used to phase out, reduce, and where possible eliminate mercury in priority sectors of the Convention



# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties

## Global Environment Facility (2/2)

### Examples of projects supported by the GEF



- Minamata Initial Assessments (initially open to all countries)
- Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (AGSM) National Action Plans (open to those with more than insignificant ASGM production)
- PlanetGOLD program (Global)
- GEF ISLANDS (Implementing Sustainable and Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS)
- Support to the ratification of the Minamata Convention (Global)
- Eliminate mercury use and adequately manage mercury and mercury wastes in the chlor alkali sector (Mexico)
- Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes containing POPs and Mercury (Panama)
- Phasing out mercury measuring devices in healthcare (Global)
- Demonstration of production phase-out of mercury-containing medical thermometers and sphygmomanometers and promoting the application of mercury-free alternatives in medical facilities (China)

# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties Specific International Programme (1/2)

## Specific International Programme, financial mechanism set up under the Convention (Article 13)

- Goal is to improve the capacity of Parties to implement their obligations under the Convention
- Second Conference of the Parties (COP-2) defined the guidance to the SIP in 2018 (UNEP /MC/COP.1/Dec.6)
- Funding for the SIP provided through voluntary contributions
- Eligibility screening:
  - Applicant is a Party to the Minamata Convention
  - Applicant is a developing country, Least Developed Country (LDC), Small Island Developing State (SIDS) or a Country with an Economy in Transition (CEIT)
  - Proposed activities avoid duplication of effort at the national level in terms of projects already funded or to be funded by the GEF and/or the Special Programme
- Budget of US\$2.2MM allocated during the third round of applications
- Third round closed on 18 March 2021, next round to be announced

# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties

## Specific International Programme (2/2)

### Examples of projects supported by the SIP

- Capacity building support for the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Burundi)
- Improvement of information on inventories of mercury use and the environmental cycle to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention (Cuba)
- Facilitating capacity-building with technology assistance and technology transfer for monitoring and managing mercury (Central Africa)
- Development of Institutional and Regulatory Framework for Implementation of Minamata Convention (India)
- Improving capacity building program for the replacement of mercury containing lamps in order to implement Minamata Convention (Iran)
- Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury-Containing Wastes and Reduce the Use of Mercury-Containing Products (Jordan)
- Strengthening the Institutional Capacities to implement Minamata Convention (Rwanda)
- Strengthening the legal framework and institutional capacities of ECOWAS countries for the implementation of Articles 3 and 4 of the Minamata Convention (Senegal, Togo and Burkina Faso)



# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties Special Programme (1/2)

## Special Programme (Chemicals and Waste Management Programme)

- Supports developing countries (in particular SIDS) and countries with economies in transition
- Goal is to enhance sustainable institutional capacity for the implementation of the Minamata, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the SAICM
- Funding for the Special Programme provided through voluntary contributions
- Eligibility screening:
  - Applicant is a developing country, Least Developed Country (LDC), Small Island Developing State (SIDS) or a Country with an Economy in Transition (CEIT)
  - Needs identified fall outside the mandate of the Global Environment Facility
  - Domestic measures are planned to ensure that the SP support is sustainable in the long term
- Fifth round closed on 7 August 2021, next round to be announced

# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties Special Programme (2/2)

## Examples of projects supported by the SP with links to the the Minamata Convention

- Institutional Capacity Development and Strengthening for Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (Eswatini)
- Institutional Capacity Building for the Implementation of the Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (the Gambia)
- Strengthening legal systems, institutions and data collection infrastructure (Kiribati)
- Strengthening the national institutional capacity for chemicals and waste management (Palau)
- Strengthening national capacity in sound chemical and waste management for the implementation of the Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam, Minamata Conventions, SAICM (Viet Nam)
- Special Program for the Strengthening of National Capacities for Chemical Substances and Hazardous Waste Management (Bolivia)
- Improvement of human resource and analytical capacity for enforcement of hazardous waste management legislations (Mongolia)
- Promoting good governance and building platforms on better coordination on sound management of chemicals and waste in the line with SAICM beyond 2020 (Moldova)

# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties

## Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer (1/2)

### Also, bilateral assistance options:

- Germany, GIZ (examples):
  - Regional Resource Governance in West Africa, including demonstration of non mercury technologies for ASGM
  - Guidelines on Pre- and Co-processing of Waste in Cement Production
- Switzerland, FOEN (examples):
  - Ratification support, in collaboration with UNITAR – 19 of 24 project countries have ratified the Convention
  - Elimination of mercury in ASGM
  - Better Gold Initiative
- United States, EPA (examples):
  - Asia-Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network (APMMN)
  - Bilateral mercury cooperation programs to foster assessment and sector-specific improvements (Japan, China, Indonesia)
  - Mercury Management and Interim Storage (Columbia)
  - Institutional and Policy Strengthening for Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (including mercury) (Peru)

# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties

## Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer (2/2)

### Bilateral (continued)

- Japan, MoE (example): MINAS (MOYAI Initiative for Networking, Assessment and Strengthening)
- France, FFEM (example): Mercury Phase-Out Project in Guianas

### Others

- NGOs: Alliance for Responsible Mining, IPEN (International Pollutants Elimination Network) and many others
- IGOs: Basel and Stockholm regional centers, Global Mercury Partnership

**Further information capacity-building and technical assistance to be reported by the Secretariat to COPs**

# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties

## Secretariat of the Minamata Convention (1/2)

### Functions of the Secretariat (Article 24)

- To make arrangements for meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and to provide them with services as required
- To facilitate assistance to Parties, particularly developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, on request, in the implementation of this Convention
- To coordinate, as appropriate, with the secretariats of relevant international bodies, particularly other chemicals and waste conventions
- To assist Parties in the exchange of information related to the implementation of this Convention
- To prepare and make available to the Parties periodic reports based on information received pursuant to Articles 15 and 21 and other available information
- To enter, under the overall guidance of the Conference of the Parties, into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions
- To perform the other secretariat functions specified in this Convention and such other functions as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties



# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties Secretariat of the Minamata Convention (2/2)

## Minamata Online

- Organised by the Secretariat
- Series of digital engagement to better understand the Minamata Convention's provisions, as well as policy and scientific aspects
- Target audience: government officials, scientists, NGOs, and other stakeholders
- Next sessions (more detail on the Convention website):
  - 7 September 2021: Getting prepared for full National Reports
  - 14 September 2021: Reporting guidance and online reporting tool: Part I
  - 16 September 2021: Reporting guidance and online reporting tool: Part II
  - 20-21 September 2021: Briefings on documents tabled at COP-4.1
  - 21 September 2021: Global distribution of ASGM practices and emissions, with focus on Africa
  - 22 November 2021: 40 Days to go on National Reports: Check-in on any questions

## MINAMATA ONLINE

SEASON 2 - 2021  
2022

# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties

## Guidance materials (1/2)

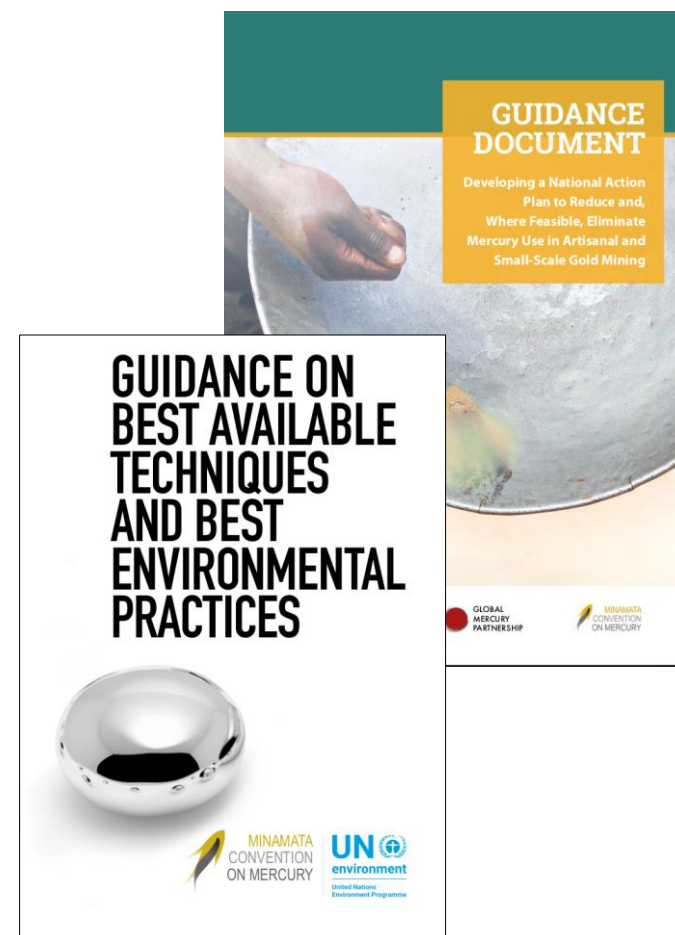
- Draft guidance on monitoring of mercury and mercury compounds to support the effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention (2021)
- Draft guidance for completing the national reporting format (2021)
- Strategic planning for implementation of the health-related articles of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (WHO, 2019)
- Guidance on the management of contaminated sites (Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, 2019)
- Guidance on the identification of individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year (COP1 MC-1/2, 2017)
- Guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of emissions (COP1 MC-1/16, 2017)



# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties

## Guidance materials (2/2)

- Guidance on criteria that Parties may develop pursuant to § 2(b) (COP1 MC-1/16, 2017)
- Guidelines on the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury other than waste mercury (COP2 MC-2/6, 2018)
- Guidance on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices (Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, 2017)
- Guidance on developing a national action plan to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in ASGM (Global Mercury Partnership, 2017)
- Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds (Basel Convention, 2015)
- Guidance on completing the forms required under article 3 related to trade in mercury (COP1 MC-1/2)

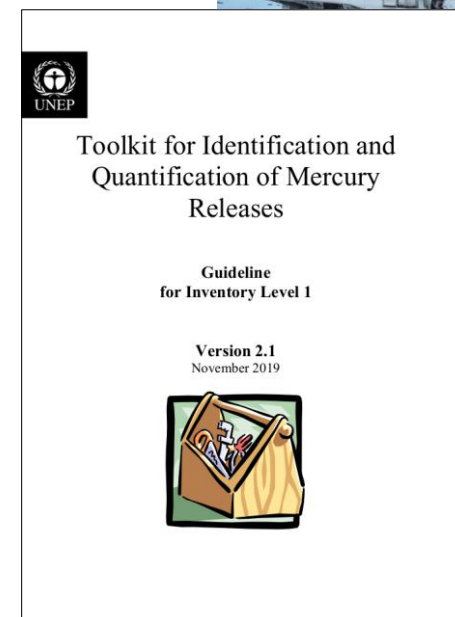
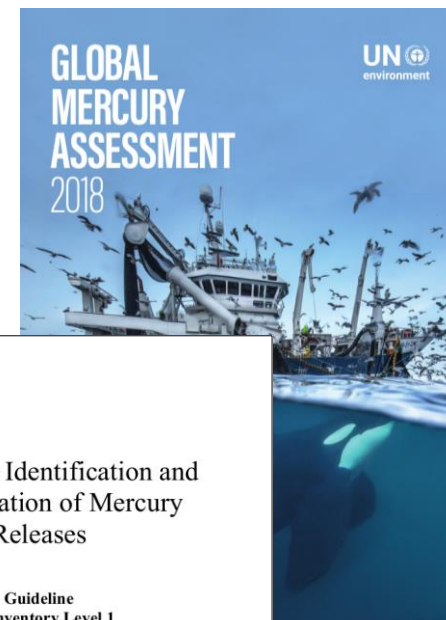




# Support and funding available to Parties and non-Parties

## Other knowledge and science

- Exposure to Mercury: a major public health concern, second edition (WHO, 2021)
- Gender in NAPs for ASGM (UNEP, 2021)
- Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases (UNITAR for UNEP, 2019)
- Global Mercury Assessments (UNEP, 2002, 2008, 2013, 2018)
- No Time to Waste: International expert group meeting on the sustainable management of mercury waste (UNIDO, 2018)
- Global mercury supply, trade and demand report (UNEP, 2017)
- Global Mercury Waste Assessment (UNEP, 2017)
- Developing Baseline Estimates of Mercury Use in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Communities: A Practical Guide (version 1.0, Artisanal Gold Council, 2015).
- Identifying Populations at Risk from Mercury Exposure (IOMC, 2008)
- E-learning module MercuryLearn Platform (UNEP, UNITAR)



**More information about the Minamata Convention**

**<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/>**

*Thank you for your attention!*

*Trainer name and email*

