



# Minamata Convention on Mercury: key obligations

Judicial Colloquium  
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Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

# Parties to the Aarhus Convention, the Protocol on PRTRs and the Minamata Convention on Mercury



<b>PARTIES</b> to the Aarhus Convention (A) (46) and to the Protocol on PRTRs (P) (38) and Minamata Convention on Mercury (M) (140)	Germany A P M	Poland A P M
Albania A P M	Greece A P M	Portugal A P M
Armenia A M	Hungary A P M	Republic of Moldova A P M
Austria A P M	Iceland A M	Romania A P M
Azerbaijan A	Ireland A P M	Serbia A P
Belgium A P M	Israel P	Slovakia A P M
Bosnia and Herzegovina A	Italy A P M	Slovenia A P M
Bulgaria A P M	Kazakhstan A P	Spain A P M
Croatia A P M	Kyrgyzstan A	Sweden A P M
Cyprus A P M	Latvia A P M	Switzerland A P M
Czechia A P M	Lithuania A P M	Tajikistan A
Denmark A P M	Luxembourg A P M	Turkmenistan A
Estonia A P M	Malta A P M	Ukraine A P
European Union A P M	Montenegro A P M	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland A P M
Finland A P M	Netherlands A P M	
France A P M	North Macedonia A P M	
Georgia A	Norway A P M	

# Effects of mercury exposure on human health

Mercury is a **highly toxic metal**, the inhalation of mercury vapour can produce harmful effects on the nervous, digestive and immune systems, lungs and kidneys, and may be fatal.

All people are exposed to mercury on some level, but the greatest concern revolves around the exposure of **women and children**.

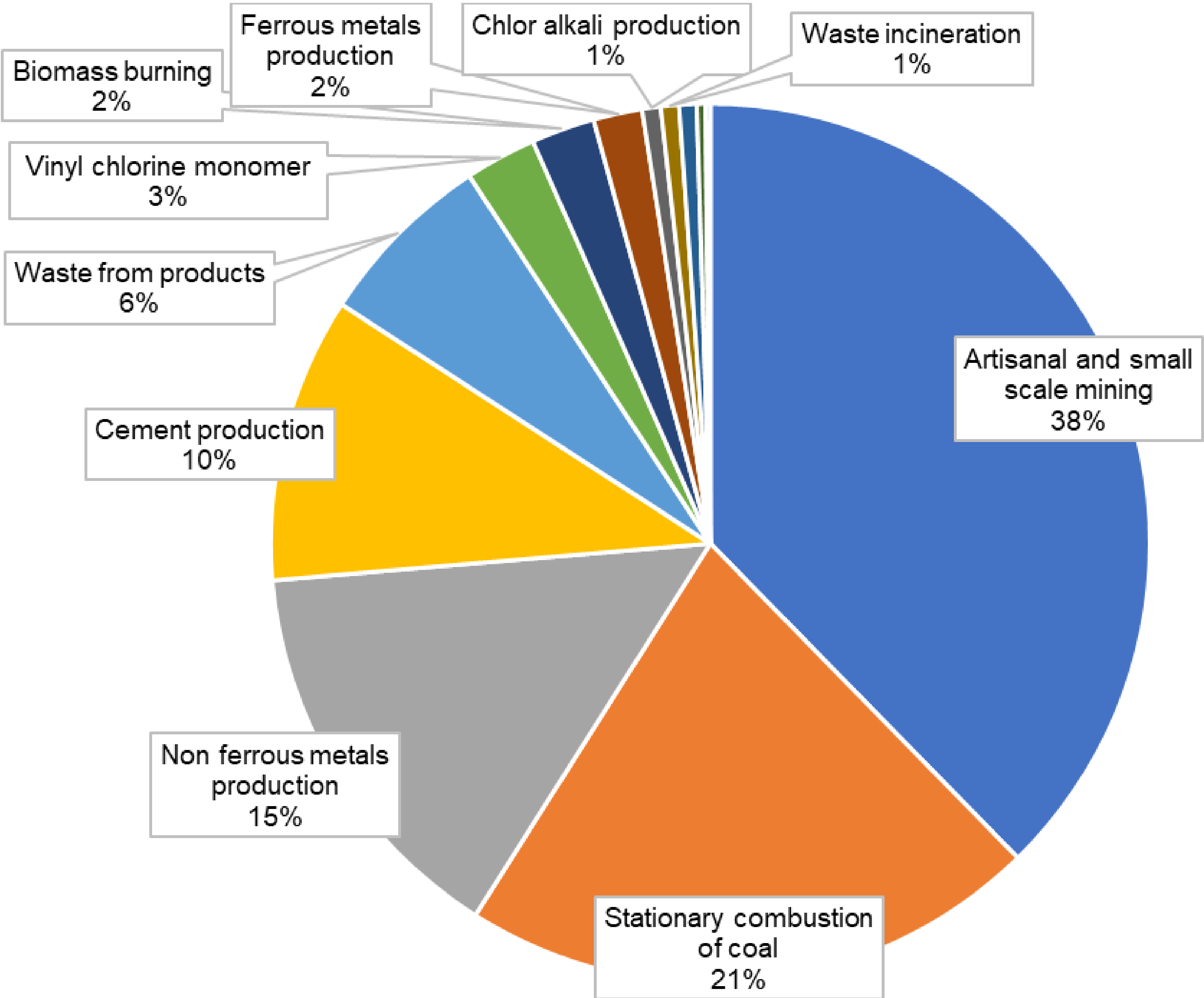
The Minamata Convention pays specific attention to these effects on women and children and mentions the need to establish strategies to **prevent the exposure** of vulnerable populations to mercury use in:

- artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM),
- exposure through seafood,
- dental amalgam,
- skin whiteners, and
- emissions from coal-fired power plants and other industries.

More resources on gender and mercury are available at  
<https://mercuryconvention.org/en/gender>



# Global anthropogenic mercury emissions 2015



Mercury Emissions Estimates [kg], 2015	
Category	Mercury emissions estimates
Artisanal and small-scale mining	837,658
Stationary combustion of coal	473,777
Non-ferrous metals production	326,657
Cement production	233,168
Waste from products	146,938
Vinyl chlorine monomer	58,268
Biomass burning	51,860
Ferrous metals production	39,903
Chlor-alkali production	15,146
Waste incineration	14,944
Oil refining	14,377
Stationary combustion of oil and gas	7,130
Cremation	3,768
Global total	2,223,594

Source: [Global Mercury Assessment 2018](#)

<https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals->

# The text of the Convention

## Preamble

*The preamble to the Minamata Convention on Mercury notes the parties' awareness of "health concerns, especially in developing countries, resulting from exposure to mercury of **vulnerable populations, especially women, children,** and, through them, future generations"*

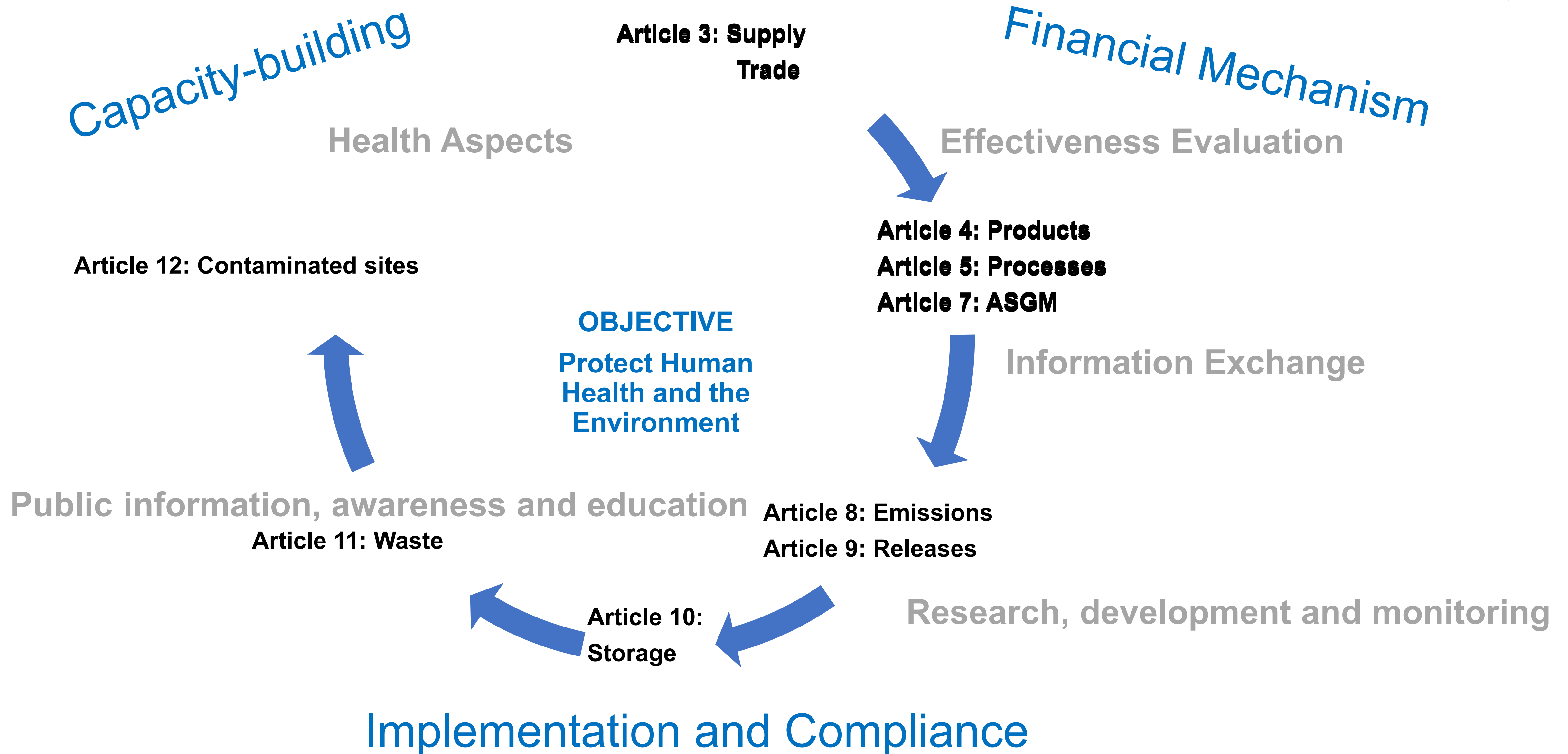
## Convention Articles

*In addition, article 16 on health aspects, article 18 on public information, awareness and education, article 19 on research, development and monitoring and article 22 on effectiveness evaluation all refer to the **needs of vulnerable populations.***

## Annex C, paragraph 1 (i)

*National action plans to address artisanal and small-scale gold mining are 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*

# The Minamata Convention



# PROVISIONS OVERVIEW

**Art. 1** The objective of the Convention is to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.



## Control Measures

Keep mercury underground

Art. 3.3: No new primary mines

Art. 3.4: Existing mines - 15 years

Reduce the use and presence of mercury in the economy, industry and society

Art. 3.5 (a): Stocks

Art. 3.5 (b): Excess mercury from decommissioned chlor-alkali facilities

Art. 3.6 – 3.10: Trade of mercury

Art. 4: Mercury-added Products

Art. 5: Manufacturing Processes

Art. 7: ASGM

Art. 10: Interim Storage

Art. 11: Mercury wastes

Art. 12: Contaminated sites

Reduce mercury to the environment

Art. 7: ASGM

Art. 8: Emissions

Art. 9: Releases



## Enabling / Supportive Context

Art. 13: Financial Mechanism

Art. 14: Capacity-building, technical assistance and technical transfer

Art. 15: Implementation and Compliance Committee

Art. 16: Health aspects

Art. 17: Information Exchange

Art. 18: Public information, awareness and education

Art. 19: Research, development and monitoring

Art. 20: Implementation plans

Art. 21: Reporting

Art. 22: Effectiveness evaluation

Art. 23: Conference of the Parties

Art. 24: Secretariat

Arts. 25-35: Various procedural articles

# Minamata Convention Obligation Timeline



**Note: Not intended to be comprehensive or to interpret legally binding obligations**

2020	Article 4: mercury-added products	Eliminate manufacture, import, export of listed mercury-added products
2020	Article 5: use of mercury in industrial processes	50% reduction in mercury use in vinyl-chloride monomer production. 50% reduction in mercury emissions and releases in sodium/potassium methylate/ethylate production *Submit info to Secretariat on number/types of facilities and estimated mercury use in listed processes
2020	Article 7: ASGM	*Submit and implement ASGM National Action Plan following any determination of more than insignificant mercury use in ASGM
2020	Article 9: releases	*Identify relevant point source categories
2021	Article 8: emissions	*Submit, if Party chooses to develop, implementation plan
2022	Article 8: emissions	*Require use of BAT/BEP for new sources in listed sectors (coal fired power plants and industrial boilers, cement, waste incineration, non-ferrous metals production)
*	Date indicates earliest date	For those countries that were parties upon Entry into Force

2023	Article 8: emissions	*Establish and maintain emissions inventory
2023	Article 9: releases	*Establish and maintain releases inventory
2025	Article 5: use of mercury in industrial processes	*Phase out mercury-cell chlor-alkali production
2027	Article 5: use of mercury in industrial processes	Measures to eliminate use of mercury in sodium/potassium methylate/ethylate production
2027	Article 8: emissions	*Implement control measures for existing facilities
2032	Article 3: supply and trade	*Cease primary mercury mining for those parties where it was being conducted at time of entry into force (for others, not allowed)

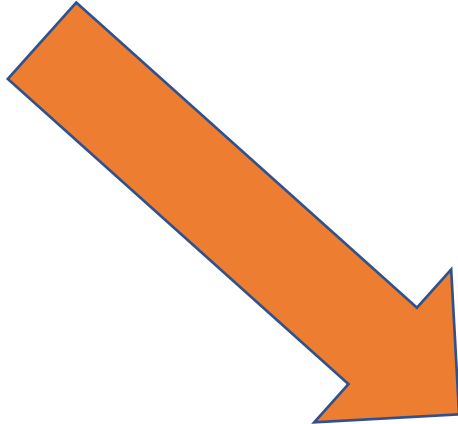
# Minamata Convention Obligations: Ongoing needs in addition to time-bound obligations

ONGOING		
Article 3: supply and trade	Implement trade measures including import consent procedures	
Article 10: interim storage	Strengthen institutional capacity for sound storage of chemicals including mercury	
Article 12: contaminated sites	Strengthen institutional capacity to develop national site management strategies	
Article 13: financial resources	Strengthen institutional conditions for mobilizing resources at national level	
Article 15: compliance	Strengthen national compliance monitoring and review	
Article 16: health	Chemicals and health communication including mercury	
Article 17: information exchange	Chemical information exchange including mercury	
Article 19: public information	Awareness-raising and training of public, stakeholders	
Article 20: implementation plans	Strengthening abilities for voluntary governmental planning efforts	
Article 21: reporting	Developing institutional capacity to facilitate preparation and transmission of national reports	

# Convention Guidance Documents



<https://www.mercuryconvention.org/en/about/forms-guidance>



English ▾

Q

The Convention ▾

Decision-making ▾

Parties ▾

Implementation ▾

Resources ▾

News

Intersessional work

Implementation and Compliance Committee

Specific International Programme

Global Environment Facility

Special Programme

Forms and guidance

# Guidance Document: Article 8 Emissions



# Guidance Document: Article 11 Waste



UNITED  
NATIONS



BC

UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.8/Rev.1

Distr.: General

20 July 2015

Original: English



Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention  
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of  
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

Twelfth meeting

Geneva, 4–15 May 2015

Agenda item 4 (b) (i)

Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:  
scientific and technical matters: technical guidelines

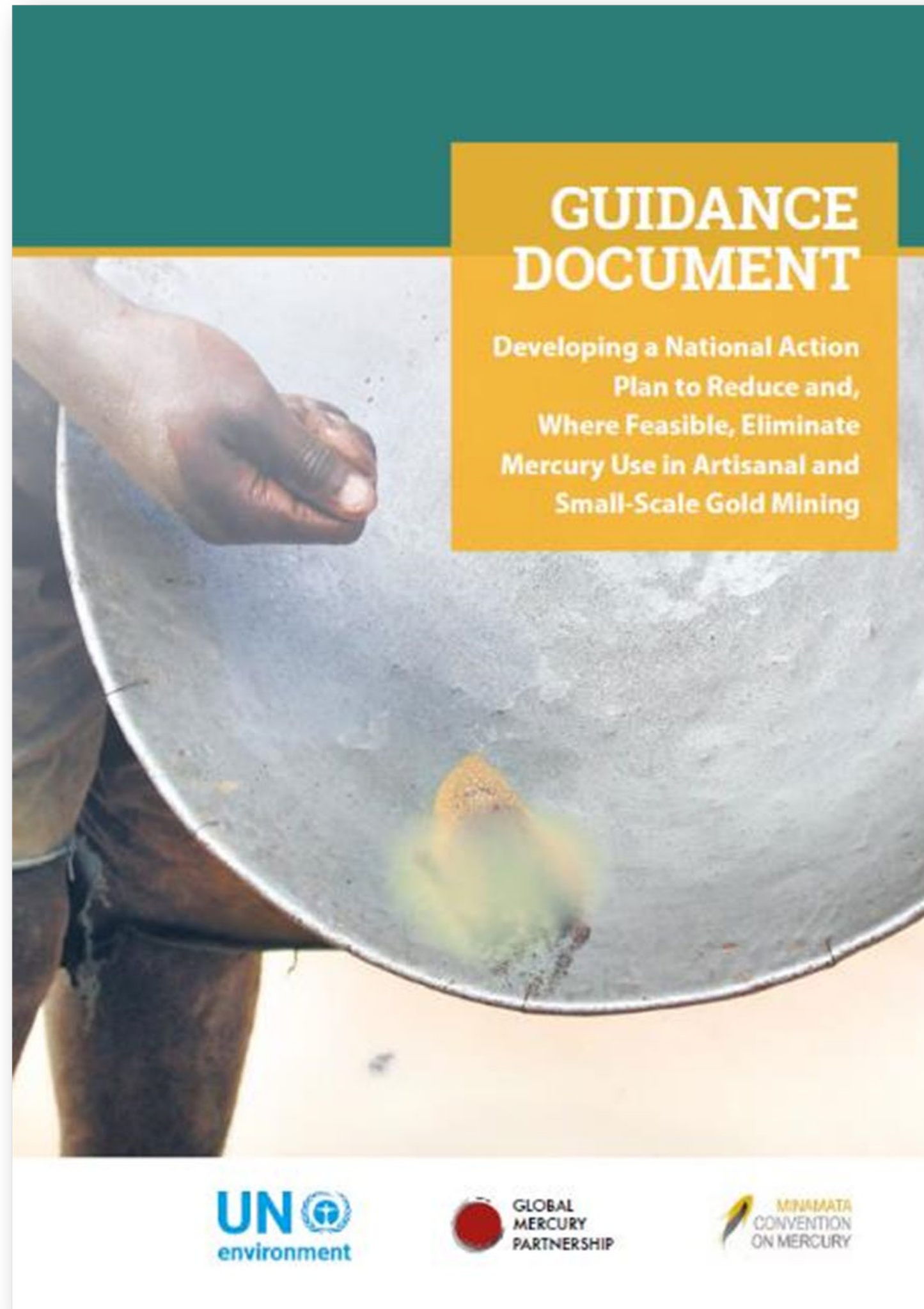
## Technical guidelines

Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes  
consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury  
compounds

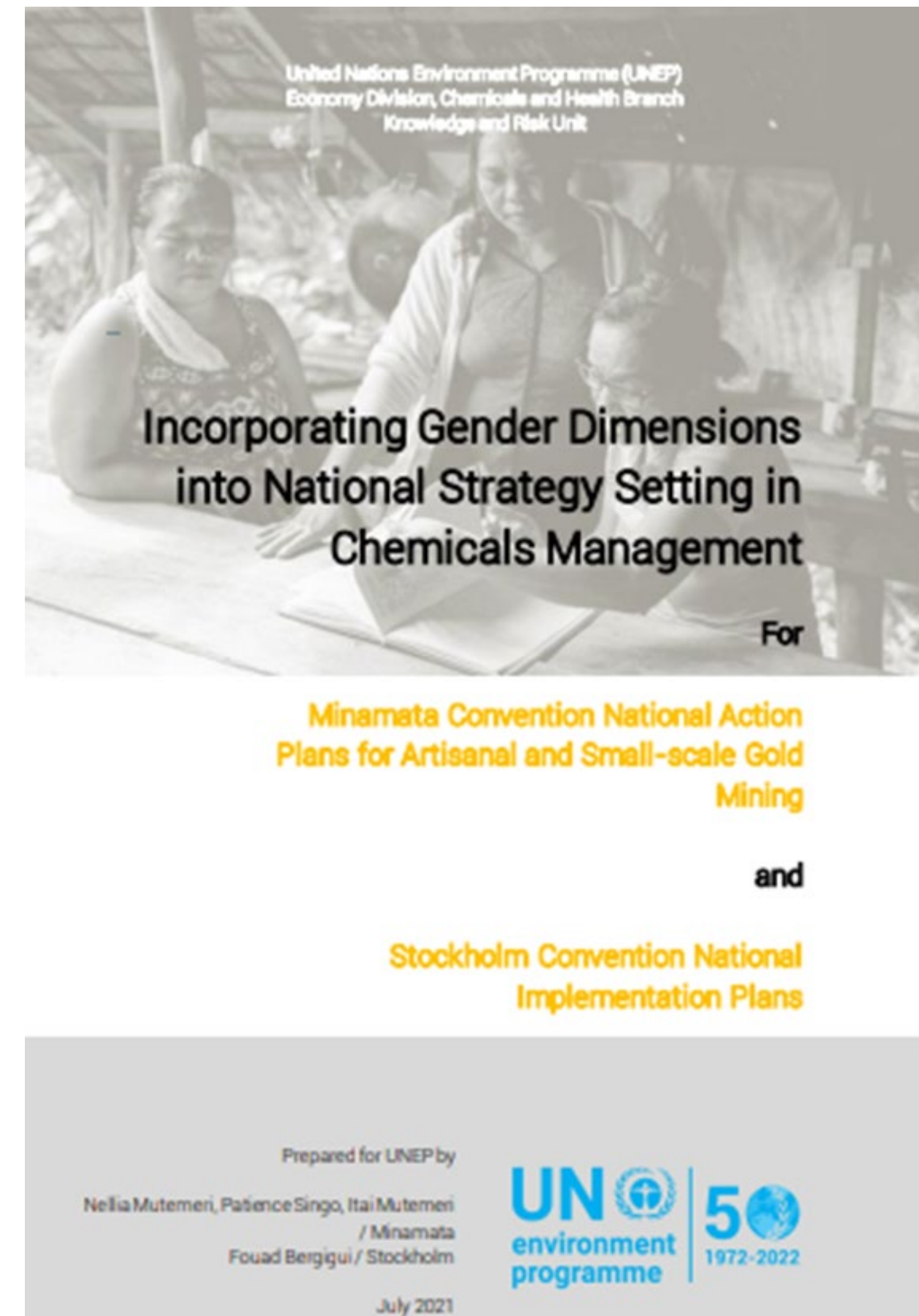
## Note by the Secretariat

At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted, in decision BC-12/4, the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds on the basis of the draft technical guidelines contained in document UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.8. The technical guidelines referred to above were prepared by the Government of Japan, in consultation with the small intersessional working group on the development of technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes. The technical guidelines were further revised taking into account comments received from parties and others by 21 March 2015 (see document UNEP/CHW.12/INF/8). The text of the final version of the technical guidelines, as adopted, is set out in the annex to the present note.

# Guidance Document: Article 7 ASGM



# Guidance Document: Article 7 ASGM



# Guidance Documents: Other Articles

TRADE IN ELEMENTAL MERCURY

STOCKS AND SUPPLY SOURCES

EMISSIONS INVENTORIES

COMMODITY MERCURY STORAGE


MERCURY WASTE MANAGEMENT

CONTAMINATED SITE MANAGEMENT

REPORTING


Article 3	Guidance on completing the forms required under article 3 related to trade in mercury
Article 3	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
Article 8	Guidance on the methodology for preparing inventories of emissions
Article 10	Guidelines on the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury other than waste mercury
Article 11	Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, <u>containing</u> or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds
Article 12	Guidance on the management of contaminated sites
Article 21	Reporting format

# Select useful information and training resources




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ON MERCURY

## The 2020 Deadline on Mercury-added Products




This session will highlight the 2020 deadline on mercury added products and provide basic information to assist Parties in their implementation of Article 4 requirements.


### Speakers




**Monika Stankiewicz**  
Executive Secretary




**Claudia ten Have**  
Senior Policy Coordination Officer



**Marianne Bailey**  
Programme Management Officer for Technical Assistance and Capacity Building



**Eisaku Toda**

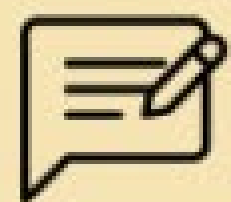


**Thursday 2 July 2020**

**10h00-11h00 CEST** and **16h00-17h00 CEST**

### Programme

1. Introduction
2. Article 4 and Annex A requirements  
Technical information on implementation
3. Questions and answers



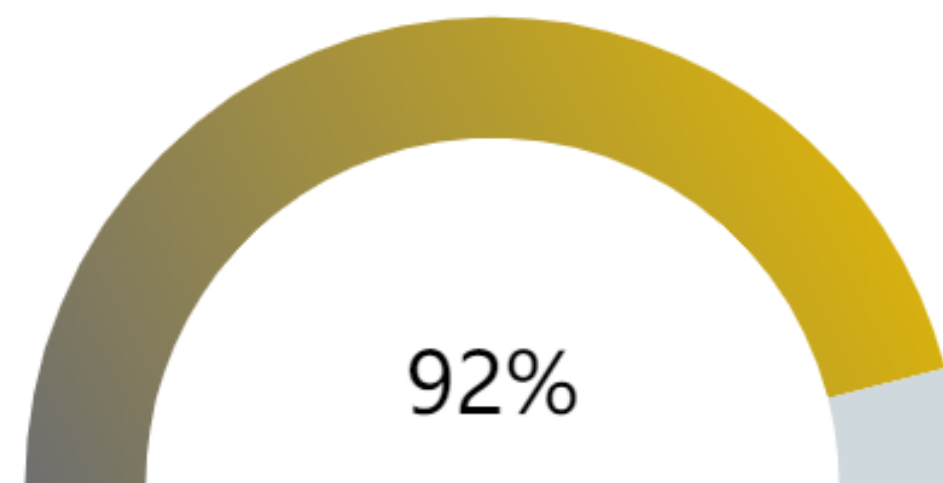
**Implementation review and support**



## Article 21 Reporting

1. Each Party shall report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of this Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures and the possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention.

First full national reports - Reporting Rate (2/11/2022)



## First full national reports

In decision, MC-3/13, on guidance for completing the national reporting format, the Conference of the Parties, recognized the need for complete and consistent national reporting to provide information for the effectiveness evaluation.

For the first full reports the reporting period covers 16 August 2017 (the date of entry into force of the Convention) until 31 December 2020. The full national reports were due by 31 December 2021.

National reports submitted by the Parties to the Minamata Convention as well as more information are available on the Convention's [website](#)



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# Thank you for your attention

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United Nations Environment Programme  
11-13, Chemin des Anémones - 1219 Châtelaine, Switzerland

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TWITTER: [@minamataMEA](https://twitter.com/minamataMEA)  
[#MakeMercuryHistory](https://twitter.com/minamataMEA)