



Minamata Convention on Mercury

Institutional structure(s) supporting the agreement

- Implementation and Compliance Committee
- COP
- Secretariat
- Bureau
- Financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the governing body of the Minamata Convention. Through the decisions taken at its meetings, the COP advances the implementation of the Convention, which it is to keep under continuous review and evaluation. The COP is supported in its work by a Bureau, consisting of a President and nine Vice-Presidents, one of whom acts as Rapporteur. The Bureau is comprised of two members each from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern European States, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western European and Others Group. New Bureau members are elected for each COP meeting.

The functions of the Secretariat are to:

- To make arrangements for meetings of the COP 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 COP, into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions; and
- To perform the other secretariat functions specified in this Convention and such other functions as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties.

Article 13 of the Convention established a financial mechanism to support developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in implementing their obligations under the Convention. The Mechanism is composed of the:

- Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF); and
- Specific International Programme (SIP) to support capacity-building and technical assistance.

Article 15 of the Convention established an Implementation and Compliance Committee as a subsidiary body of the COP. The objective of the Committee is to promote the implementation of, and review compliance with, all the provisions of the Convention.