

Minamata Convention on Mercury



Key provisions of the Convention

The Convention consists of 35 Articles and 5 Annexes, which can be divided into four main categories:

1. Operational provisions – describing obligations for Parties to reduce anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds to the environment, with controls at each of their lifecycle stages:

- **Article 3:** Controls on mercury supply sources and trade
- **Articles 4–6, Annexes A, B:** Phase-out and phase-down of mercury use in products and processes;
- **Article 7, Annex C:** Controls on artisanal and small-scale gold mining where mercury is used;
- **Articles 8–9, Annex D:** Controls on air emissions and releases to land and water;
- **Articles 10–12:** Storage, waste and contaminated sites

2. Support to Parties – with articles relating to:

- **Article 13:** A financial mechanism, which includes the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and a specific international Programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance
- **Article 14:** The provision of capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer
- **Article 15:** The establishment of an Implementation and Compliance Committee

3. Information and awareness raising articles, covering:

- **Article 16:** Health aspects
- **Article 17:** Information exchange
- **Article 18:** Public information, awareness and education
- **Article 19:** Research, development and monitoring
- **Article 20:** Implementation plans

4. Administrative matters:

- **Article 21:** Reporting
- **Article 22:** Effectiveness evaluation
- **Article 23:** Conference of the Parties
- **Article 24:** Secretariat, hosted by UNEP
- **Articles 25–35, Annex E:** Procedures such as the settlement of disputes, amendments to the Convention, the adoption and amendment of annexes, the right to vote, signature, ratification (or acceptance, approval or accession), entry into force, reservations, withdrawal, depositary, authentic texts

This factsheet on the Minamata Convention is included in the comprehensive report: *Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)*, pp. 40–43.