

THE FUTURE WE WANT MINAMATA CONVENTION

“ This multilateral environmental agreement is one of the world’s youngest, and like any youngster it holds massive potential. Everyone on the planet is exposed to mercury: only concerted, united action through this Convention and all of its allies can stop this toxic heavy metal endangering human and environmental health. ”
Inger Andersen, UN Environment Executive Director

2013

After years of meetings and five intergovernmental sessions, the text of the Minamata Convention is adopted by over 140 countries at the **Diplomatic Conference in Kumamoto** (Japan).

The signatures demonstrate the countries' resolve to work towards the Convention's objective of **protecting human health and the environment from mercury**.

2017

The **Minamata Convention on Mercury** enters into force on 16 August.

It is named after **Minamata Bay** (Japan) to keep in mind the lessons of the tragic health damage by industrial mercury pollution in the 1950-60s.

The **1st Conference of the Parties (COP-1)** adopts guidance on BAT/BEP for controlling mercury emissions as well as trade in mercury, and on reducing and eliminating mercury use in ASGM.

2016

The **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-7)** at the Dead Sea (Jordan) finalizes the Best Available Techniques / Best Environmental Practices guidance (BAT/BEP) on air emissions.

Agreement on guidance for developing **National Action Plans** on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM).

2018

Deadline for phasing out any **acetaldehyde production using mercury** (responsible for the pollution of Minamata Bay).

COP-2 adopts guidelines on the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury other than waste mercury.

2019

COP-3 adopts guidance on the management of contaminated sites. First reporting deadline for parties.

TODAY

123 PARTIES

2020

Deadline for phasing out manufacture, import and export of listed **mercury-added products** (including certain lamps, batteries, cosmetics, pesticides).

The Convention also includes measures to phase down **mercury dental amalgam** and to reduce mercury by half when used in vinyl chloride monomer production processes (used for plastic products).

2025

Deadline for phasing out **mercury-cell chlor-alkali production** (an outmoded process for chlorine production).

2021

COP-4 to focus on indicators for effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention after years of multilateral work.

Review of the annexes and **second reporting deadline** for parties.

2032

Deadline for ending **primary mercury mining** in known producing parties.

MULTILATERALISM MAKES MERCURY HISTORY

* This list is not meant to be exhaustive but rather a small sample of the Convention's multilateral work.



MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY