



Global Mercury Partnership Waste Management Area Meeting 2019

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Opening

Mandate and objective

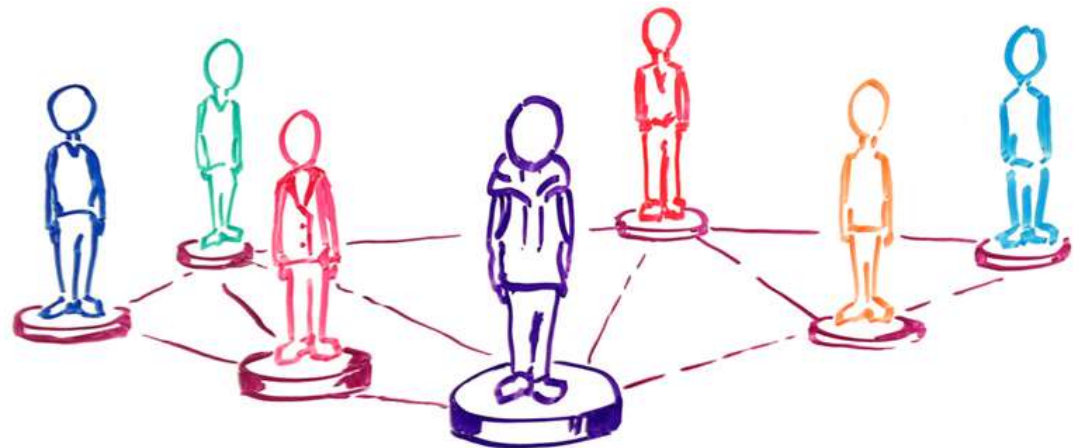
- **Mandate:** to deliver immediate actions
- **Overall Goal:** to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury
- **Means:** by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land.

Membership

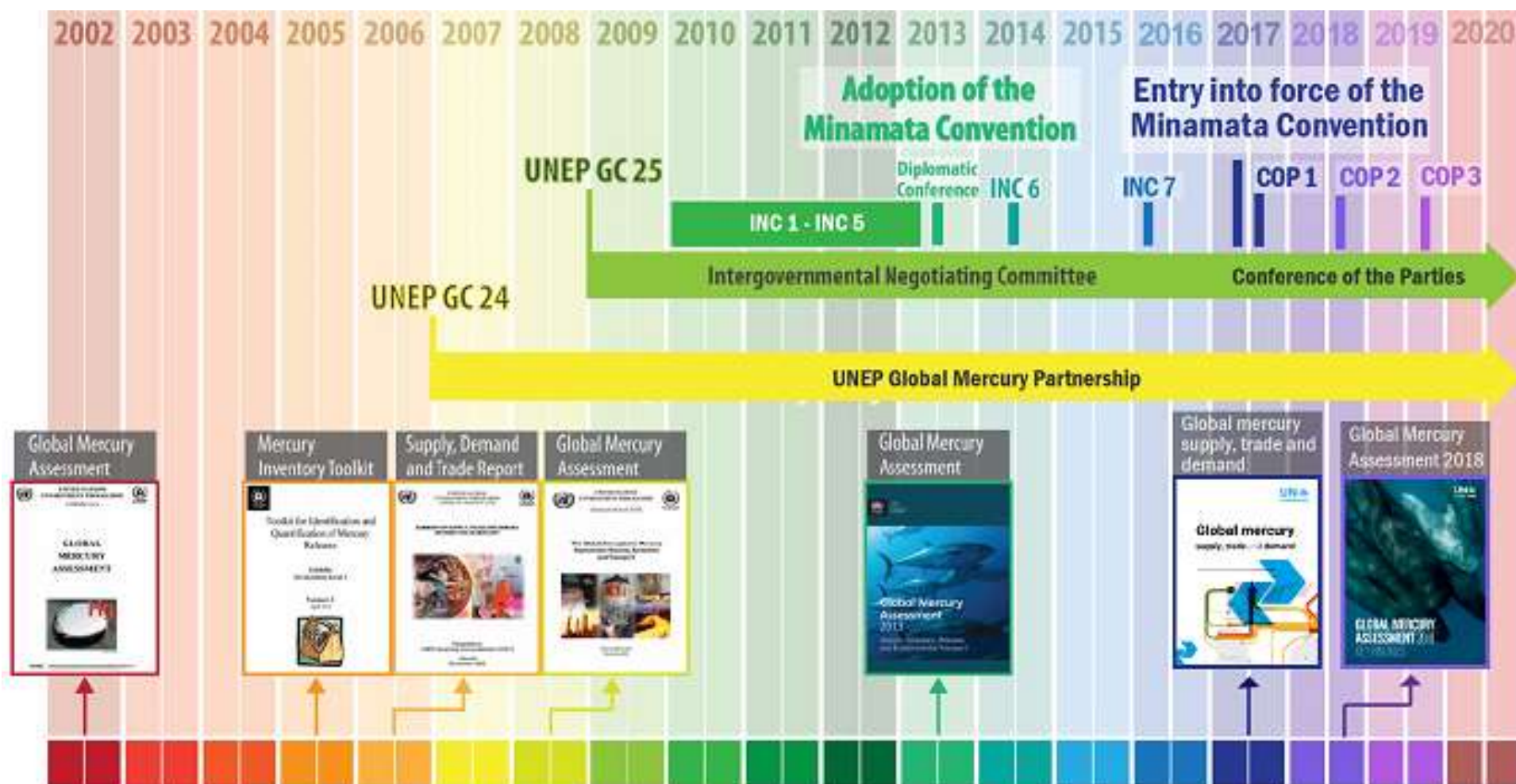
Open to all stakeholders who share the Partnership's overall goal

194 Partners (as of 4 October 2019):

- 34 governments
- 9 intergovernmental organizations
- 67 non-government organizations
- 43 industry
- 41 others (incl. academia)



A twin track approach



Priority focus

- Support timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention
- Provide state of the art knowledge and science on mercury
- Deliver outreach and awareness raising towards global action on mercury

Eight Partnership Areas of work



Waste Management Area

Objective: Minimize and, where feasible, eliminate mercury releases to air, water, and land from mercury waste by following a lifecycle management approach.

Minamata Initial Assessments

Initial findings from the 39 finalized Minamata Convention Initial Assessment (MIAs):

- Most MIA reports prioritize mercury-added products (Article 4) and mercury wastes (Article 11). Other major priority areas include ASGM (Article 7), emissions (Article 8), releases (Article 9).
- Estimation of mercury releases related to mercury-added products and waste management need further improvements.

Session 3: Contribution to the discussions under the Minamata and Basel Conventions

Minamata Convention on Mercury

Minamata Convention – Article 11(2)

Mercury wastes means substances or objects:

- (a) Consisting of mercury or mercury compounds;
- (b) Containing mercury or mercury compounds; or
- (c) Contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds,
in a quantity above the relevant thresholds defined by COP that
are, are intended to be, or are required to be disposed of.

This definition excludes overburden, waste rock and tailings from mining, except from primary mercury mining, unless they contain mercury or mercury compounds above thresholds defined by COP.

Technical expert group on waste thresholds - Membership

Decision MC-2/2: COP2 set up a group of technical experts

- 25 designated experts from the 5 UN regions
- 8 industry and NGO experts as observers
- 2 co-chairs: Nigeria and Switzerland

Technical expert group on waste thresholds - Mandate

Type of waste: Clarify coverage of each of the 3 categories

Listing: Develop a comprehensive list of mercury waste in 2(a), and an indicative list of mercury waste in 2(b)

Thresholds: Develop approaches/methodologies for establishing and recommend thresholds for mercury waste in 2(c) and consider the relevance of thresholds for 2(a) and 2(b)

Identify approaches for establishing thresholds for overburden, waste rock and tailings, except from primary mercury mining.

Technical expert group on waste thresholds - Meetings

2 teleconferences

1 face to face
meeting - Osaka,
Japan in May 2019



Technical expert group on waste thresholds - Outcome (document UNEP/MC/COP.3/7)

Comprehensive list of category A waste and indicative lists for category B and C wastes developed

- **Category A:** waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds
- **Category B :** mercury-added products (not limited to Annex A), that are end-of-life, obsolete, broken or discarded, including as components in assembled products. *Municipal, medical or other waste that contains end-of-life mercury-added products but is not segregated is regarded as category C waste when above thresholds.*
- **Category C:** other waste with mercury or mercury compounds above the thresholds. It includes residues generated by primary mercury mining processes, industrial processes and waste treatment processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are present above the thresholds.

Technical expert group on waste thresholds

- Outcome

TYPE OF WASTE	THRESHOLD
A. Consisting of mercury or mercury compounds	No threshold needed
B. Containing mercury or mercury compounds	No threshold needed
C. Contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds	2 options put forward: 1) 25 mg/kg as total Hg, or 2) Further work by expert group

Technical expert group on waste thresholds

- Outcome

TYPE OF WASTE	THRESHOLD
Overburden, waste rock	No threshold needed
Tailings from mining, except from primary mercury mining	«2 tiered» approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tier 1: threshold as for Mercury waste C, with 2 options:- Tier 2: threshold based on mercury release potential, to be developed by the group of technical experts

Technical expert group on waste thresholds - Outcome

- Presented to COP3 in **document UNEP/MC/COP.3/7**
- Suggested action by the COP: review the outcome of the work done by the group of technical experts and consider the draft decision
- Draft decision includes outcome of the technical expert group, suggests to extend until COP4 the mandate of the group and calls for cooperation with the Basel Convention working group on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes

Basel Convention

BC technical guidelines on environmentally sound management of mercury wastes

- Basel COP14 (decision BC-14/8) decided to review the technical guidelines on environmentally sound management of mercury wastes.
- Minamata COP2 (decision MC-2/2): invited the Basel COP to consider reviewing, as appropriate, the guidelines, with additional guidance for certain mercury wastes.

BC technical guidelines on environmentally sound management of mercury wastes

- Lead country: Japan
- Small intersessional working group, operating by electronic means: Parties and others to nominate experts by 31 August 2019
- First teleconference : 25 September 2019
- Members of the Basel small intersessional working group to cooperate with the Minamata group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds
- Report back to Basel OEWG12 and COP15

Thank you



<http://web.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership>

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