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Latest news from the Global Mercury Partnership – January 2024

New Year's words from the Chair of the Partnership Advisory Group

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as Co-Chair of the [Partnership Advisory Group](#) for UNEP's Global Mercury Partnership.

Since its inception, the Partnership has solidified its presence as one of the leaders, seeking viable solutions for mercury reduction.

As we enter a new year, the Partnership has the potential to continue its role as a catalyst for change. We believe that through increased communication, robust facilitation, and the continuous implementation of projects within and across partnership areas we can capitalize on the opportunities ahead of us for the betterment of the environment.

2024 brings about opportunities to enhance leadership at the Partnership level, including: (1) ensuring that we have the resources to accomplish our directives, (2) that each partnership area continues make strides individually and collectively to advance mercury reduction, (3) that the Global Mercury Partnership continues to provide an infrastructure that supports the mercury reduction efforts of other entities, and (4) that each member of our Partnership feels appreciated and emboldened to accomplish their work.

I want to take this moment to congratulate each of our members for their diligent and comprehensive work, and efforts they have conducted to make Mercury History.

I also would like to welcome and thank Ms. Bianca Dlamini of Eswatini for her willingness to accept the nomination to Co-chair the Partnership Advisory Group. Her experience and insight will be valuable to the Partnership as we move forward.

I look forward to engaging with each of you on how to best achieve our ultimate mission.

Sincerely,
Rodges Ankrah

HIGHLIGHTS

The fourteenth meeting of the Partnership Advisory Group ([PAG-14](#)) took place on 19 December 2023, in an online setting.



The meeting welcomed **Ms. Bianca Dlamini** as the **new co-chair of the PAG**. Bianca Dlamini is an Environment Inspector working for the Eswatini Environment Authority, with more than 10 years' experience working on programmes related to sound management of chemicals. Bianca is also a former member of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Minamata Convention and co-chair of the Expert Group on Mercury Releases.

Updates from the Secretariat, Partnership Areas, and other stakeholders, as well as recent decisions from the [fifth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention](#) and a [letter](#) from the Executive Secretary to the Partnership Chair were discussed, shedding light on potential ways the Partnership could contribute to their implementation.

Further reflections were exchanged on possible avenues for further cooperation with the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on cross-cutting topics such as trade and flow, or biodiversity, climate change and mercury.

The meeting also considered the need to strengthen the effectiveness of the Partnership and its areas of work and provided updates on the preparation of the sixteenth International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant

Resources from the PAG-14 meeting are available on [event page](#).

RECENT EVENTS



[The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury \(COP-5\)](#) - Geneva 30 Oct-3 Nov 2023 - showcased significant progress, including defining new dates for phasing out mercury-added products, strengthening ties with Indigenous Peoples, advancing the first effectiveness evaluation, and agreeing on a threshold for mercury waste. [Explore every decision](#).



cosmetics - More than what meets the eye, organised by the GEF and UNEP on 31 October 2023, allowed to raise the issue by sharing information on the negative impacts of skin lightening products, and questioning the promotion and normalization of skin lightening to prevent the harmful cultural norms and **#makemercuryhistory**.



The **first meeting of the Project Stakeholders Group on Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products** was held on 28 November 2023 as a platform to share information and experience between the GEF project countries and broader stakeholders. The meeting featured updates and case studies from the stakeholders, and allowed for initial discussions on priorities and future actions. More details in the [event resources](#).



On 31 October 2023, the Global Mercury Partnership and the World Health Organization jointly held a webinar on **Phasing down the use of dental amalgam and managing its associated waste: from knowledge to action**, notably to share an overview of the ongoing project, initial experiences and best practices on the topic. More details on the [event page](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS



The 16th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, From Minamata to Africa and beyond: Addressing mercury challenges in global environmental change, will take place in Cape Town, South Africa on 21–26 July 2024. The week will see high quality researches in plenary talks, workshops, special and oral sessions as well as poster presentations. **Submit an abstract** before the final closing date now on **31 Jan 2024**.

LATEST RESOURCES



[programme of work and budget for the biennium 2024–2025](#) prepared by the Secretariat, based on COP-5 document UNEP/MC/COP.5/INF/36 and COP-5 decisions, to provide an overview of the activities and budget planned under the Minamata Convention.



Learn about the [National Reporting pursuant to Article 21 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury](#), including the Online Reporting Tool, the [information session](#), and previous reporting periods. The deadline for submitting the second short reports was **31 December 2023**.

Reach out to the Secretariat at any point for help, whether technical or substantive at MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org.



Get further insights on the recent COP-5 side event on [Addressing Mercury Pollution and Biodiversity: from Science to Action](#) through its recording.



Revisit the COP-5 side event on [Reinforcing the health sector's commitment to the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury: The showcase of GEF-UNEP-WHO projects on mercury-added products](#).



Learn more on [Mercury and Vulnerable Peoples: Pathways to Protection](#) through the COP-5 side event recording.



The [Mercury in Retrograde](#) report presents the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) undercover investigations carried out in three different regions (Asia, North America, and Europe) that confirm the continued production, trade, and sale of mercury-added mercury-added skin lightening products.

[VIEW ALL RESOURCES >>](#)

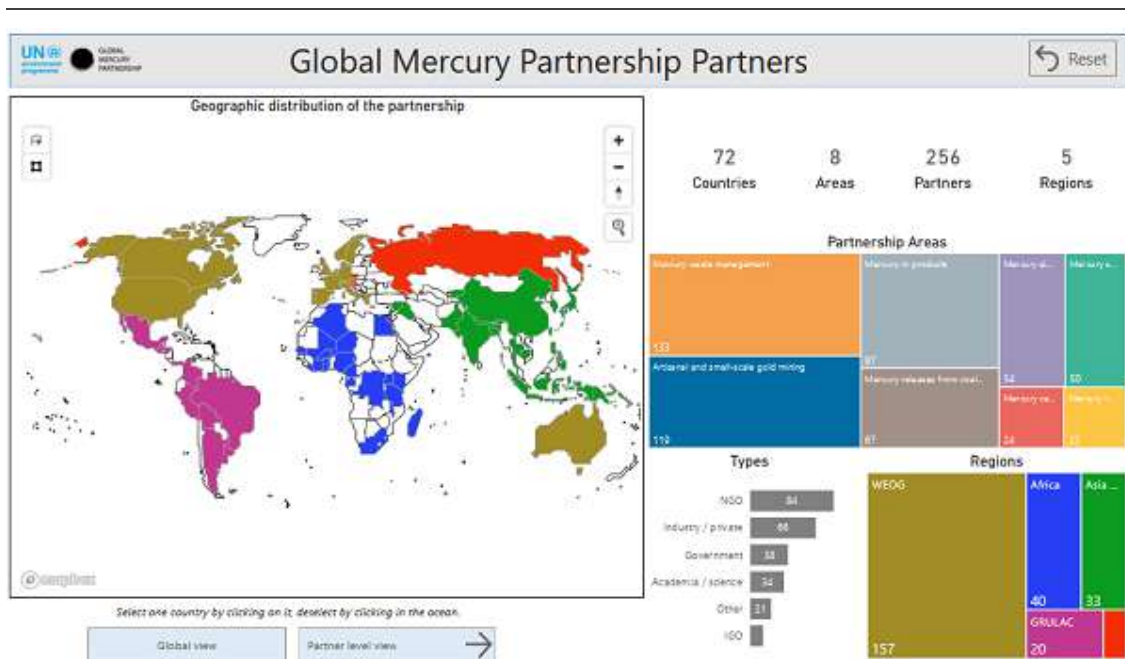
WELCOME OUR NEW PARTNERS

The Partnership is most pleased to start the year with close to 260 members, including the following recent ones we warmly welcome.

[Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation \(ANSTO\)](#)
[Fair Life for Miners to End Poverty \(FLMEP\)](#)

[INFORMATION ON BECOMING A PARTNER >>](#)

Consult our dashboard to learn more about our partners



ABOUT THE UNEP GLOBAL MERCURY PARTNERSHIP

The [Global Mercury Partnership](#) aims to protect human health and the environment from the releases of mercury to air, water and land. With over 250 partners to date,

from governments, IGOs, NGOs, industry and academia, the Partnership focuses on supporting timely and effective implementation of the Minamata Convention, providing state of the art knowledge and science and raising awareness towards global action on mercury.

READ MORE ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP AREAS

Artisanal and small-scale
gold mining

Mercury releases from
coal combustion

Mercury air transport
and fate research

Mercury waste management

Mercury cell chlor-alkali
production

Mercury supply and storage

Mercury in products

Mercury releases from
the cement industry

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Our mailing address is:
Secretariat of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership
Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix
Geneva 1211
Switzerland

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