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## Latest news from the Global Mercury Partnership - October 2024

Through this edition, find out more about latest international conferences, workshops and webinars, including partnership areas meetings, as well as the recent planetGOLD Global Forum, as well as the sixteenth International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP-16).

We are also pleased to share new resources published and invite you to learn more about our new members.

With best wishes,  
The Secretariat of the Global Mercury Partnership

## HIGHLIGHTS



The planetGOLD programme held its [Global Forum on Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining](#) in **June 2024**, in the Batangas, Philippines. The event gathered stakeholders to reflect on the challenges facing planetGOLD projects and the sector. UNEP chaired the first day of the forum, and co-organized sessions addressing criminality and human right issues, mercury-free gold production, strategies to protect vulnerable people in National Action Plan, taxation, and linkages with biodiversity.

Minamata Convention's Executive Secretary Monika Stankiewicz [opened the Global Forum](#) and the Secretariat moderated the [Minamata National Action Plans: Strategies to protect vulnerable people](#) session. The Secretariat also discussed the [Philippines' progress and priorities in implementing the Convention](#) with the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, and hosted a [mercury trade workshop](#). The visit concluded with a [field visit to mercury-free ASGM sites](#) in Benguet, where the Secretariat observed community practices and efforts to ensure sustainable gold extraction. Watch the [video](#) on the debate between the Executive Secretary and an artisanal gold miner regarding the importance of regulatory frameworks, the role of formalization in supporting sustainable and safe mining practices. Read the [success story of planetGOLD](#).



For seven years since the ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in August 2017, its Parties have been making efforts to tackle the pressing issues surrounding toxic mercury and trade. During a visit to the Philippines in early June, Executive Secretary Monika Stankiewicz emphasized the importance of sustainable actions. "One goal for our work is to ensure that all the measures and all the actions we take actually have a lasting effect". Watch the [7th anniversary video](#).



The [sixteenth International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant \(ICMGP-16\)](#), organized for the first time on the African continent, took place from **21 to 26 July 2024** in Cape Town, South Africa, under the theme: "From Minamata to Africa and beyond: Addressing Mercury Challenges in Global Environment Change". UNEP and its Global Mercury Partnership were involved in several oral sessions and plenaries, including on artisanal and small-scale gold mining, biodiversity and Science-Policy Interface. Consult the meeting resources on the [event page](#).



The Specific International Programme (SIP) is a country-driven initiative that complements existing mechanisms and fosters collaboration at national and regional levels, including South-South cooperation. Recently, the Minamata Convention Secretariat undertook a technical review of 30 eligible projects to be considered by the SIP Governing Board for possible funding. Visit the [SIP webpage](#) to discover past projects and learn how additional contributions to the SIP Trust Fund can drive impactful solutions forward.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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The 15th Meeting of International Committee on Contaminated Land (ICCL) will feature a Session on Minamata Convention and contaminated sites, on Thursday **17 October 13:30-17:00 CET**. The session will present challenges faced by countries in sites contaminated with mercury as well as technologies and management to remediate. Participate on [Zoom platform](#).



The Global Mercury Partnership and WHO, are planning an information sharing session on the management of mercury wastes resulting from dental amalgam and measuring medical devices. The [event](#), envisaged for **November 2024**, will share knowledge and case studies among project countries and broader stakeholders.



The [Mercury Waste Management](#) Partnership Area is planning to hold its partnership area meeting in an online setting in **November 2024** (date to be confirmed). Among others, the meeting will share progress made under the working groups, as well as key highlights towards the implementation of current projects. Further information will be available on the [event page](#).

The Project "[Promoting Minamata Convention on Mercury by making the most of Japan's knowledge and experiences](#)" will hold its annual webinar: Enhancing the generation and use of mercury information for science-based policy development, on Monday **25 November 2024**.





[Register](#) to the event.



The Partnership Advisory Group will hold its fifteenth meeting on Tuesday **10 December 2024** in an online setting. The meeting will be the opportunity to take stock of recent and ongoing activities and exchange on cross-cutting priority topics for future work. Further details will be added on the [event page](#) as they become available.

## RECENT EVENTS

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Minamata Online, organized in cooperation with the Global Mercury Partnership on **7 October 2024**, outlined how the Convention addresses Article 9, including the guidance on release inventory adopted at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) adopted at COP-5. Meeting resources are available on the [event page](#).



The third Berlin Forum on Chemicals and Sustainability co-hosted by the German Federal Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) took place on **5-6 September 2024**. The event was the occasion to foster knowledge-sharing and strengthen global multi-stakeholder collaboration towards addressing the global pollution crisis. Read [the recap](#).

The Partnership Area on [Mercury Releases from Coal Combustion](#) held its annual meeting on **13 June 2024** in a hybrid format in New Delhi, India. The meeting enabled the sharing of updates on recent activities, and exchanges on ongoing work in the area. Further information, including



recordings and presentations, is available on the [event page](#).



The Partnership Areas on [mercury releases from coal combustion](#), [mercury releases from the cement industry](#) and [mercury waste management](#) organized a series of workshops regarding Article 8 of the Minamata Convention. The sessions held in **June 2024** in Pakistan, South Africa and Viet Nam, shared the latest information on inventory in relation to Annex D sources. Event resources are accessible on the [event page](#).



The Second meeting of the [Eliminating Mercury Skin Lightening Products](#) project stakeholders' group was held on **21 May 2024**. The meeting provided updates on the ongoing GEF project and stakeholders shared experience on the topic. Further information is available on the [event page](#).

## LATEST RESOURCES

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Check out the recent [factsheets on mercury emissions](#), [mercury trade](#) and [mercury-added products](#) published by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention with financial support from the European Union.



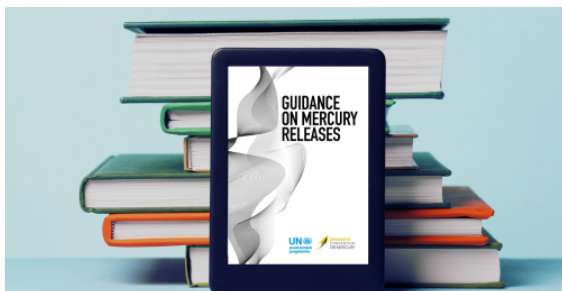
Explore the knowledge hub on [Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining and Biodiversity](#) developed as part of the Partnership's work on cross-cutting topic and contribution to address the triple planetary crisis on climate change, biodiversity loss and chemical pollution.

[RE-SHARE ON LINKEDIN >>](#)

The Minamata Convention Secretariat has developed capacity-building material in six UN languages to support Parties in addressing



mercury-added products. Parties and stakeholders are free to download the files and customize them, adding information on national regulations and practices as appropriate. [Check out the material and learn how to join the forum!](#)



The guidance on mercury releases adopted at COP-5 contains information on the best available techniques and best environmental practices and is meant to assist Parties in controlling and, where feasible, reducing releases of mercury to land and water (Article 9). Read the [publication](#).

## WELCOME OUR NEW PARTNERS

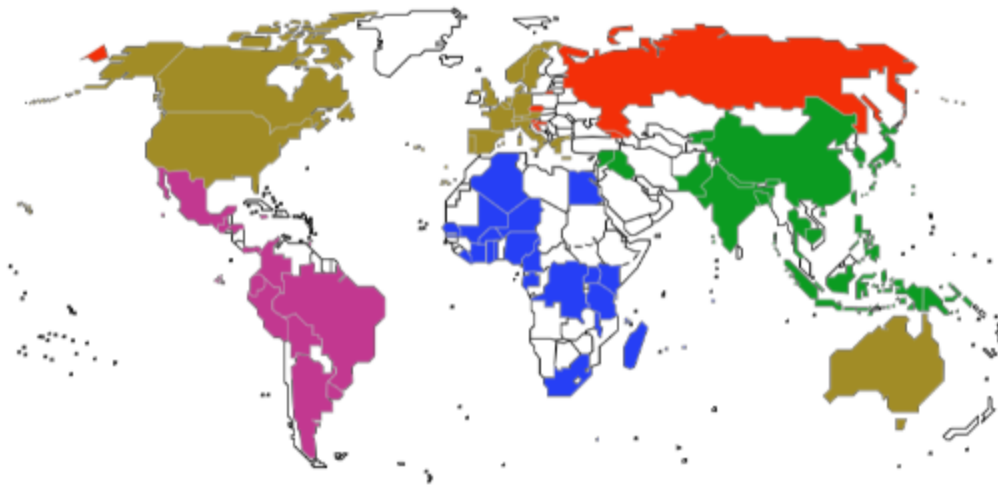
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The Partnership is most pleased to welcome our new members.

[Anne Lilian Nakafeero](#)  
[Cornell University](#)  
[National Institute for Minamata Disease](#)  
[Uganda National Environment Management Authority \(NEMA\)](#)  
[Vitáalitas](#)

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

Consult our [dashboard](#) to learn more about our partners.



## READ MORE ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP AREAS

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**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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