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## NOTE

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| From:    | General Secretariat of the Council  |
| To:      | Delegations   |
| Subject: | AOB for the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 16 December 2025<br>Sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury<br>(Geneva, Switzerland, 3 - 7 November 2025)<br>- Information from Presidency and the Commission |

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## *Summary*

This was a successful COP that agreed upon a global phase-out for mercury dental amalgam by end 2034, except when its use is deemed necessary by the dental practitioner. This decision, which had been in the making since COP4, is consistent with the EU Mercury Regulation. However, no agreement was reached on a phase-out date for the use of mercury in the production of vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) – a substance mainly used in the production of production of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) - due to persistent opposition of China, and the issue was deferred to COP7.

A number of other Decisions were adopted, including a Decision outlining the process for Parties to request the extension of exemptions that allow them to continue using mercury; a Decision regarding the greater participation of Indigenous People in the Minamata Convention; as well as decisions on mercury waste and on cosmetics.

### ***Details of the outcomes***

The major successes of COP6 include the adoption of the following ***amendments to Annex A*** to the Convention listing mercury-added products, including dental amalgam, that are subject to a prohibition of manufacture, import and export at given phase-out dates and manufacturing processes:

- Adding dental amalgam, except when its use is deemed necessary by a dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient to ***Part I of Annex A*** (prohibition to manufacture, import and export) with a phase-out date of 2034.
- Parties agreed to complement ***Part II of Annex A*** (additional provisions for Parties who have not yet phased out dental amalgam) with legally binding requirements for Parties to take measures, as appropriate, to not allow, or significantly phase down dental amalgam unless its use is considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient.
- Regarding the African Region's proposal to address the online sale and supply of illegal ***mercury-containing cosmetics***, the COP adopted a Decision requesting the Secretariat to work together with the Global Mercury Partnership, the World Customs Organisation, INTERPOL and the WHO to gather and provide information to Parties who still face challenges in implementing the prohibition of the manufacture, import and export of such (or mercury-containing) cosmetics in accordance with ***Part I of Annex A*** to the Convention.
- In light of requests made by Thailand, Bangladesh and India to ***extend their exemptions*** with regards to products listed in ***Part I of Annex A*** to the Convention, the COP adopted a Decision granting all three Parties extensions for their requested products until 2030. A second Decision established a process whereby Parties wishing to introduce future requests for extensions of exemptions are required to do so preferably 6 months but no less than 2 months ahead of the COP.

Regarding **mercury waste**, the COP adopted a Decision which:

- Invites Parties to submit information on the lists of mercury waste, waste of mercury added products and waste contaminated with mercury, as appropriate.
- Requests Parties to take action with regard to the thresholds agreed upon at COP5 for waste contaminated with mercury and mercury compounds.

Regarding the **budget**, the COP adopted the budget for the General Trust Fund of the Minamata Convention on Mercury for the biennium 2026-2027 of 8 431 553 US dollars representing an increase of 0.35%, which does not allow the Secretariat to fund the full staffing. However, it was not possible to find any solution because of the strict position of the USA.

The COP also adopted a decision on better involvement of **Indigenous Peoples** to the work of the Convention. Following discussion, the Minamata Secretariat was requested to seek advice from Indigenous Peoples' organisations accredited to the Convention and the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Mercury on measures for strengthening their effective engagement in the work of the Convention and proposed next steps.

Regarding the implementation of the **Gender Action Plan** adopted at COP5, two Parties preferred the decision to only address the health concerns of women and children. In the end, a decision with a compromise acceptable to the EU was adopted.

Other COP6 decisions provide for inter alia the following:

- Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining
- Review of the Convention's Financial Mechanisms (GEF and SIP)
- The Convention's Implementation and Compliance Committee
- International cooperation and coordination
- Venue and date of COP7