

## Course Syllabus

### Learning objectives

Mercury is a heavy metal that occurs naturally but can also be released into air, water and soil through anthropogenic activities such as mining, metal and cement production, and combustion of fossil fuels. It is highly toxic and persistent in the environment. It can be transported in the atmosphere great distances, and can enter the food chain and accumulate in flora and fauna.

This course introduces you to the **Minamata Convention on Mercury**, which seeks to protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe why mercury is harmful for human health and the environment
2. Identify the core components and mechanisms established by the Minamata Convention.

### Content and duration

This online course is comprised of 3 lessons organized in interactive modules that combine the course theory with exercises and interactions that will facilitate the learning process.

The core content of the lessons is complemented with additional materials, such as videos, publications and external websites.

It will take one hour approximately to complete the course, excluding additional materials. This is a self-paced course that allows you to manage your time as you wish. You can navigate the lessons at your convenience and retake them whenever you wish.

## Completion certificate

Take the quiz at the end of the course to assess your learning progress.

You are required to answer at least 80% of the assessment questions correctly in order to obtain a course certificate.

Before obtaining the certificate you also need to submit the course survey (your feedback). This survey helps us to improve the course, develop new courses and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

## Course Outline and content

### **Lesson 1: Introduction**

Mercury; the origins of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

### **Lesson 2: Operational articles of the Minamata Convention**

Negotiating Multilateral Environmental Agreements; administering treaties; knowledge refresher.

### **Lesson 3: Principles and concepts of International Environmental Law**

International environmental law principles; sustainable development; responsibility for transboundary harm; transparency, public participation and access to information and remedies; cooperation and common but differentiated responsibilities; precaution; prevention; “polluter pays” principle; access and benefit sharing regarding natural resources; good governance; principle of progressive realisation and non-regression; knowledge refresher.