

# Introductory Course to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

## *Course Syllabus*



**InforMEA**  
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON  
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

## 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

The e-learning course is comprised of 3 lessons, which provide links to the relevant treaty text paragraphs and term concepts of the InforMEA Glossary section. The lessons are organised in books, which can be downloaded in pdf from the left-hand navigation menu.

The core content of these lessons is complemented with additional materials, such as videos, publication and/or external websites

It will take you 1 hour approximately to complete the course, excluding additional materials. You can manage your time as you wish; take a few units and retake the course whenever it is more convenient for you.

## Assessment and 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 course and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

Unit	Content	Learning objectives
<b>Unit 1 – Introduction</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mercury</li> <li>2. The origins of the Minamata Convention on Mercury</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe why mercury is harmful for human health and the environment</li> <li>2. Recall the origins of the Minamata Convention</li> </ol>
<b>Unit 2 - Operational articles of the Minamata Convention</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Primary Mercury Mining (Article 3.4)</li> <li>2. Mercury supply sources and trade (Article 3)</li> <li>3. Mercury-added products (Article 4)</li> <li>4. Manufacturing processes using mercury or mercury compounds (Article 5)</li> <li>5. Artisanal and small-scale gold-mining (Article 7)</li> <li>6. Emissions (Article 8) and releases (Article 9)</li> <li>7. Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury (Article 10), mercury wastes (Article 11) and contaminated sites (Article 12)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the key operational provisions established by the Minamata Convention</li> </ol>
<b>Unit 3 - Articles related to the implementation and institutional arrangements of the Minamata Convention</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Financial resources and mechanism (Article 13) and capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer (Article 14)</li> <li>2. Information and awareness raising articles (Articles 16-18)</li> <li>3. Information and awareness raising articles (Articles 19-22)</li> <li>4. Compliance committee and effective evaluation (Articles 15 and 22)</li> <li>5. Establishment of the Conference of the Parties (Article 23) and the Secretariat (Article 24)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the measures, bodies and mechanisms established by the Convention to support implementation</li> </ol>



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