

**Strategic planning for
implementation of the
health-related articles
of the Minamata
Convention on Mercury**



**World Health
Organization**

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Definitions¹

artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) – gold mining conducted by individual miners or small enterprises with limited capital investment and production.

bioaccumulation – occurs within an organism, where a concentration of a substance builds up in the tissues and is absorbed faster than it is removed. Bioaccumulation often occurs in two ways, simultaneously: by eating contaminated food, and by absorption directly from water. This second case is specifically referred to as bioconcentration.

mercury – in the Minamata Convention means elemental mercury (Hg(0), CAS No. 7439-97-6). In this document, the term “mercury” encompasses the various forms of mercury, elemental mercury and mercury compounds, unless otherwise stated.

mercury-added product – means a product or product component that contains mercury or mercury compound that was intentionally added.

mercury compound – in the Minamata Convention means any substance consisting of atoms of mercury and one or more atoms of other chemical elements that can be separated into different components only by chemical reactions. In Article 3 of the Minamata Convention, this means mercury (I) chloride (known also as calomel), mercury (II) oxide, mercury (II) sulfate, mercury (II) nitrate, cinnabar and mercury sulfide.

Party – a State or regional economic integration organization that has consented to be bound by this Convention and for which the Convention is in force.

persistent organic pollutants (POPs) – chemicals of global concern due to their potential for long-range transport, persistence in the environment, ability to bioaccumulate in ecosystems, as well as their significant effects on human health and the environment.

Abbreviations

ASGM	artisanal and small-scale gold mining
COP	Conference of the Parties
GEF	Global Environment Facility
MIA	Minamata Initial Assessment
MoH	Ministry of Health
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WHO	World Health Organization

¹ The definitions are based on the text of the Minamata Convention and from the website and/or documents of the World Health Organization.



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