



UNITED NATIONS UNITING FOR MINAMATA

The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury will be held in Geneva, Switzerland from 24 to 29 September 2017.

On the evening of Thursday, 28 September, as part of the High-Level Segment of the Conference, there will be an interactive, dynamic dialogue among heads of UN organizations and other relevant institutions committing to action on the Minamata Convention. The event, entitled “The United Nations Uniting for Minamata”, will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva and will provide an opportunity for heads of UN organizations and the Global Environment Facility to share perspectives on the Minamata journey, aspirations for a world without mercury contamination, and a commitment to support the effective implementation of the Convention.

The event will mark a special moment in the history of the United Nations. It will also be a tribute to the entry into force of the Minamata Convention, which adds an important component to the existing multilateral environmental agreements that already encompass many entities of the UN family and other relevant institutions.

Organization

The session “United Nations Uniting for Minamata” will be held at the Assembly Hall of the Palais des Nations from 18.15 to 19.30 and is open to all delegates.

Participants will be accompanied on the 5 minute walk from the Geneva International Conference Centre to the Palais des Nations. It is expected that departure from the Conference Centre will begin at 17.45.

His Excellency Mr. David A. Granger, President of Guyana will be delivering a keynote speech on the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Guyana with focus on artisanal and small scale gold mining.

The panelists at the session will each intervene on the role and contribution of their respective agencies in providing support for the implementation of the Convention.

Following the initial statements by panelists there will be time for questions and views from the floor, which will first be opened to ministers. Those who wish to take the floor should inform the secretariat accordingly prior to the session.



Keynote Speaker

His Excellency Mr. David A. Granger, President of Guyana

Panelists

- Mr. Marc Chardonens, Vice-Minister for Environment, Switzerland
- Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director, UN Environment
- Mr. Li Yong, Director General, UN Industrial Development Organization
- Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility
- Mr. Nikhil Seth, Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- Mr. Magdy Martinez-Soliman, Assistant Secretary General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme

The interactive discussion will be moderated by Ms. Maria Neira Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health of the World Health Organization, and may be guided by the following questions:

- How can the objective of protecting human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury be integrated into public health and environmental strategies at the national and regional level?
- Keeping in mind the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, what is the role of the United Nations in implementing the Minamata Convention at the national level?
- How can the international development and finance community, including the UN, support the countries to achieve the goals of the Minamata Convention with the concept of the S D G?
- How can we promote partnerships with public and private entities at the national level to assist in the implementation of obligations under the Convention and, as opportune, in the sharing of responsibility?
- What are the opportunities for and challenges to engaging the private sector in the process of implementing the Convention at the local, national, regional and international level?

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