



## Hg Week

In parallel to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury that will gather representatives from around the world at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, a week of activities – the Hg Week - is organized from 22 to 29 September in different places of the city to raise the awareness of the public about mercury, its uses, its effects, and how the Minamata Convention contributes to the global solution.

### 24 – 29 September @ Place de Nations

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#### Mercury Drop

A giant drop of mercury occupies the Place des Nations from Sunday 24 to Friday 29 September to symbolize the entry into force of the Minamata Convention and Geneva's hosting of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Conference delegates, as well as the general public, will be invited to enter the **Mercury Drop**, where a series of short videos will be screened, providing inspiration and information about the history of mercury and the measures being undertaken to reduce its harmful impacts on the human health and the environment.

#### *About the Mercury Drop*

The **Mercury Drop** is a collaborative effort by Plastique Fantastique and the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention with the support of the City of Geneva. Plastique Fantastique creates platforms for temporary architectures in urban environments. Established in Berlin in 1999, Plastique Fantastique specializes in creating unique pneumatic installations as alternative, adaptable, low energy spaces for temporary and ephemeral activities. The transparent, lightweight and mobile shell structures relate to the notion of activating, creating and sharing public space and involving citizens in creative processes.

### 22 – 29 September @ Place de Nations

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#### Exhibition of photographs on small-scale gold mining by Pulitzer Prize winner Larry C. Price

Come to discover the works of Larry C. Price, a Pulitzer Prize Award-winning documentary photographer and multimedia journalist, on the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Burkina Faso, Indonesia and the Philippines. The picture exhibition has been made possible thanks to the generosity of Mr. Price, who kindly donated his pictures for the purpose of the exhibition, and organized by UN Environment with the support of the City of Geneva.

### Friday, 22 September, from 11:00 - 16:00 at WHO Headquarters

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#### ***“For Health, Make Mercury History”***

In keeping with World Health Assembly resolution 67.11 (2014) “Public health impacts of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds: the role of WHO and Ministries of Public Health in the implementation of the Minamata Convention”, WHO will host a series of events dedicated to health and mercury on 22 September 2017, including a High Level Segment, Hair sampling for mercury content (100 participants) and a technical segment with presentations and discussion on key actions for the health sector.



Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva, Ministries of Health and other health sector representatives participating in the Conference of the Parties, and UN partner organizations, are cordially invited to attend this event.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/?q=fr/events/hg-week-geneva-health-make-mercury-history>

**Tuesday 26 September, from 18:30 - 20:00 at University of Geneva.**

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***“Science and Policy Interface: Mercury Emissions, Releases & Effects in the Environment”***

The Minamata Convention’s negotiations process was initiated in 2010 after more than a decade of active engagement from the global community in bringing the science of mercury contamination to policy implementation. In shaping the obligations of the Convention, the intergovernmental negotiating committee that was established was continuously supplied with the latest scientific, technical, economical, and legal developments.

At the interface between science and policy, the Convention will continue to require the active involvement of a wide range of actors from the scientific world in a broad spectrum of disciplines as it moves through actual implementation of its provisions.

The session will explore how members of the scientific community may support the implementation of the Minamata Convention around the world, be it in the further development of knowledge and its dissemination, in the exchange of information, in the quest for mercury-free alternatives or in the evaluation of the Convention’s effectiveness.

To participate in this event, please register at [www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/?q=fr/hg-week-science-policy](http://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/?q=fr/hg-week-science-policy)

**Wednesday 27 September, from 13:00 - 14:45 at Maison de la Paix (Graduate Institute)**

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***“Make Mercury History along the Gold Supply Chain”***

Since the earliest time of gold mining, mercury was used to extract gold. This practice is still ongoing in more than 70 countries, where 10 to 15 million artisanal and small-scale gold miners use mercury to recover gold. It is the world’s largest source of mercury pollution, emits toxic vapours and releases large quantities of mercury, harming the miners, their communities, and the environment.

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining produces about 12 to 15% of the world's gold. It is a complex global development issue, however exposure of miners and their communities to the terrible effects of mercury can be reduced in simple and cost effective ways.

The session, hosted by the Graduate Institute Centre for International Environmental Studies, will explore how each actor of the gold supply chain - many of which are represented in Switzerland – has a responsibility and a role to play towards mercury-free gold production and the sustainable development of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector.

To participate in this event, please register at [www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/?q=fr/hg-week-gold](http://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/?q=fr/hg-week-gold)