

# MINAMATA CONVENTION PHOTO CONTEST 2022

## #MAKEMERCURYHISTORY

### Showcase your work at the United Nations!

Photo Contest organized by the secretariat of the [Minamata Convention on Mercury](#), a global treaty administered by the [UN Environment Programme](#) (UNEP), the leading global voice on the environment.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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**Mercury is in the top 10 chemicals of major public health concern**, according to the World Health Organization. Once released into the environment, mercury can travel long distances and persist in the air, water, sediments, soil, and living organisms.

**All people are exposed to mercury on some level.** Its exposure can be the cause of severe health problems and contributes to the global loss of biodiversity and climate change.

The **Minamata Convention on Mercury** is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury. It draws attention to this ubiquitous metal that is naturally occurring and has broad uses in everyday objects. Controlling the anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury throughout its lifecycle has been a key factor in shaping the obligations under the Convention. Since the Convention entered into force on 16 August 2017, **136 countries and the European Union** have become Party to the Convention, to work together to control the supply and trade of mercury, reduce the use in products and industrial processes, lower emission and release of mercury, raise public awareness, and build the necessary institutional capacity to support national implementation of these obligations.

The Convention is named after the bay in Japan where, in the mid-20th century, mercury-tainted industrial wastewater poisoned thousands of people, leading to severe health damage that became known globally in the 1970s as the “Minamata disease”. **Implementing the Minamata Convention will reduce mercury pollution and protect the lives of millions of people around the world.**

### CONTEST INTRODUCTION

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This Photo Contest seeks to **raise awareness of the ongoing global concern of mercury pollution**. Through visual representation, you can help open the eyes of a broad public that may have not yet realized the magnitude of the problem and show that everybody can contribute to the reduction of mercury pollution and that a clean environment is still possible.

**A jury of communication and environmental experts** from leading global organizations such as UNEP, the GEF, and the Global Mercury Partnership will decide on the most relevant photos in each category.

## THREE CATEGORIES

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The Photo Contest is organized into **three categories**. You can send **one picture per category**.

1. **Mercury contamination** – show the world that it is a critical problem that knows no borders and affects us all
2. **The people working to phase out mercury** - from policymakers to academia and through working on the ground (workers, inspectors, etc.)
3. **The environment** – show us what we are fighting for: how the world looks like without mercury pollution

## HOW TO ENTER

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- **Photos should be submitted** filling the [online form](#) and **uploading the file** with the relevant information. Remember that you can use the form three times (one per category) at: <https://bit.ly/MCPhoto2022>
- If you encounter **any problem**, let us know by email at [minamatasupport@un.org](mailto:minamatasupport@un.org)
- By submitting photos, the photographer is agreeing with the **rules** of the Photo Contest listed below.
- The Competition is **open to all individuals** that are at least 18 years of age at the time of the photo submission.
- **Submission deadline:** 23:59 Midnight (Europe Central Time) of 31 December 2022.

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

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- Photographs can be either in color or black and white.
- They must be in JPEG, PNG or TIFF format.
- Minimum size: 1.5 MB (within 2048 x 1536 pixels or 1536 x 2048 pixels).
- Winners may later be requested to submit JPEG images with higher resolution.
- The picture must not contain logos, commercial references or people's names. It shall not include any watermark, the author's signature or the title of the artwork.

## IMPORTANT DATES

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- The #MakeMercuryHistory Photo Contest by the Minamata Convention is open for entries from 19 August 2022 until **31 December 2022**.
- **Winners** will be announced on **22 April (Earth Day) 2023**.

## PRIZES

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There will be **one winner for each of the three categories** listed above and **nine finalists**. Exciting awards and visibility will be offered for each winner.

- Winners will receive a framed printed copy of their photo and an official certificate from the secretariat of the Minamata Convention.
- Winners will be invited to be part of a special event on photography and mercury in the context of the public awareness campaign for the Convention's 6th anniversary in 2023.
- Winner and finalist photos in each category will be part of a virtual exhibition on the Minamata Convention website to be launched for the World Environment Day – 5 June 2023 and promoted through social media challenges giving credit to the authors.
- Winner and finalist photos will be part of a physical photo exhibition at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP-5) to be held in October/November 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Winner and finalists' photos will be part of a 2024 Minamata Convention calendar to be gifted to COP-5 participants in November 2023, and downloadable from the Convention's website.
- Winner and finalists will receive a printed copy of the 2024 calendar.

## RULES

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1. All photos are submitted free of charge.
2. The photo must be an original photograph taken by the participant.
3. All photos need to be labelled and accompanied by the registration form containing the following information:
  - a. Category
  - b. Name of the submitter
  - c. Nationality and location where the photo was taken
  - d. Contact details, including a valid e-mail address.
4. Each participant can submit one photo per category (up to a maximum of 3 photos, provided they are submitted under different categories).
5. Only one submitter per photo is allowed (i.e., no teamwork).
6. By participating in the contest, the participant acknowledges and confirms that the submitted photo does not infringe on applicable laws and regulations, including data protection law, rights of privacy, the copyrights, trademarks, rights of publicity or any other intellectual property rights and other rights of any person or entity and that no other party has any right, title, claim or interest in the submitted photo.
7. The photo shall not violate the intellectual property rights and other rights of whatsoever nature in any materials produced by or in relation to the activities of the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which shall be retained by the secretariat. The participant shall only use the Minamata Convention's name, logo and emblem in connection with the activities under the present photography contest and with the prior written informed consent of the secretariat of the Minamata Convention or as may otherwise have been approved by the secretariat of the Minamata Convention within the context of its activities. In no event will authorization of the Minamata convention's name, logo or emblem, or any abbreviations thereof, be granted for commercial purposes.
8. The photo must respect UN values and must not contain obscene, defamatory, profane, libelous, threatening, harassing, abusive, hateful, provocative or otherwise objectionable or

- inappropriate content, which would violate applicable laws and regulations, including on data protection, privacy, other rights of any individual or entity.
9. The secretariat of the Minamata Convention reserves the right to reject any content that it considers unacceptable or inappropriate.
  10. By participating in this contest, the participant confirms being aware of the Minamata Convention secretariat's policies and statement on privacy as well as the terms of use displayed on the Conventions' website.
  11. By participating in this contest, participants agree that the secretariat of the Minamata Convention will keep digital copies of their photos.
  12. By entering this contest, participants acknowledge that they are aware that their photos will also be used for outreach activities at the discretion of the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, and agree to it.
  13. If the artwork features the face of a real person, the author must provide a signed document proving that the portrayed person has authorized the use of his or her image for non-commercial purposes.
  14. UN staff members, consultants and interns are welcome to take part in the competition.
  15. The decision on the winning photos is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
  16. Any dispute arising out of or in connection with the contest shall be settled amicably. Should attempts at amicable negotiation fail, any such dispute shall, upon request by either party to the dispute, be referred to arbitration in accordance with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) arbitration rules. The parties to the dispute shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such controversy, claim or dispute.
  17. The secretariat of the Minamata Convention shall not accept any liability for claims arising out of the activities performed in the context of the contest, or any claims for death, bodily injury, disability, damage to property or other hazards that may be suffered by the participant or any other person as a result of their activities in the context of the contest.
  18. The participant shall refrain from any conduct that would adversely reflect on the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Organization (UN) and shall not engage in any activity which is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the UN, UNEP, and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention.
  19. Nothing in or relating to the contest shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the UN, including UNEP and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention.