

HEJ SUPPORT INFORMATION SESSION, JUNE 2020

Women and Mercury: Role of the Minamata Convention

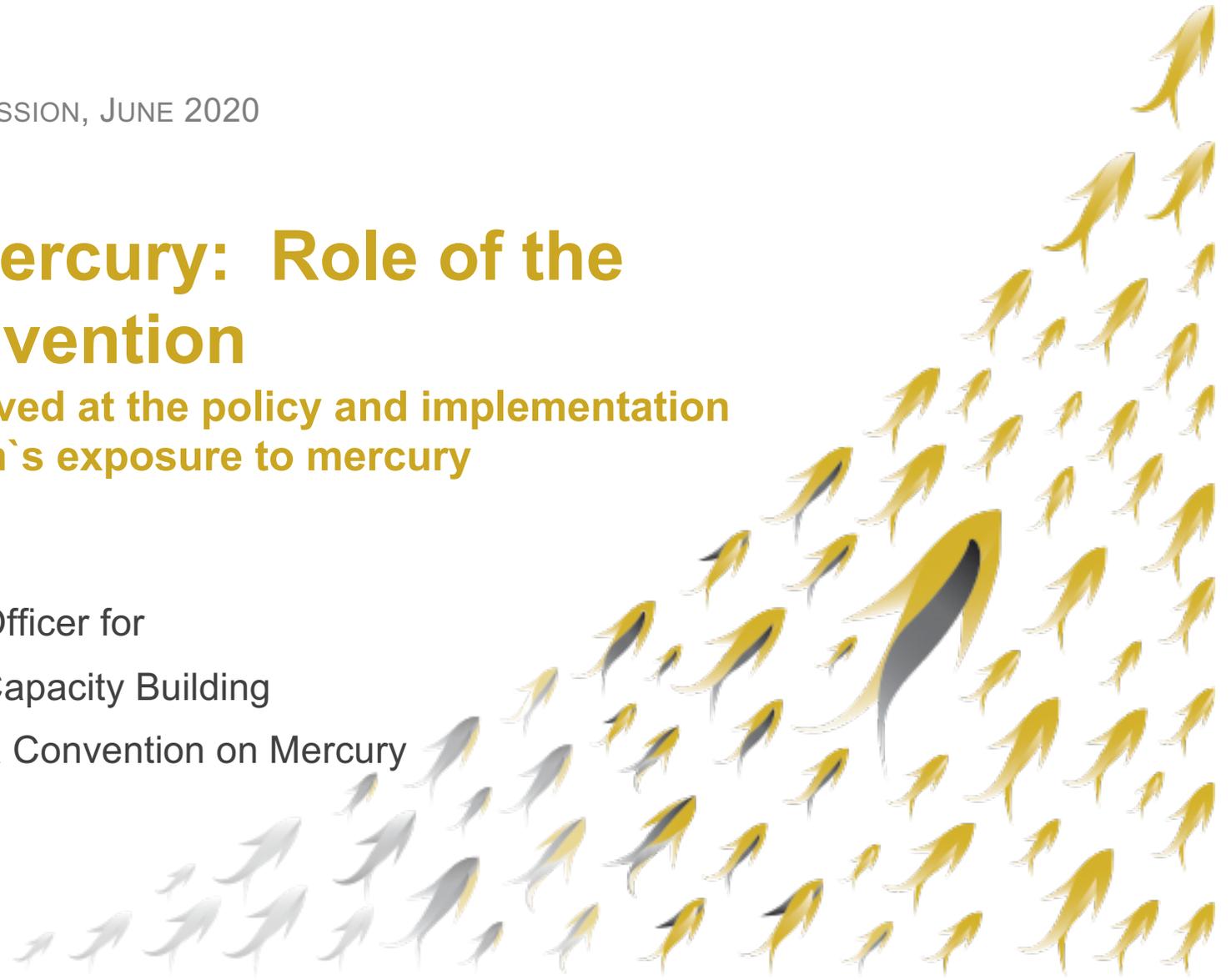
what needs to be achieved at the policy and implementation levels to reduce women`s exposure to mercury

Marianne Bailey

Programme Management Officer for

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury



Policy + Implementation

1. Convention structure:
Substantive, supporting measures
2. Specific articles and their broader policy/gender context
3. How the Convention's implementation mechanisms address gender

Substantive obligations



Implementation mechanisms



Objective: protect human health and the environment



Vulnerable populations



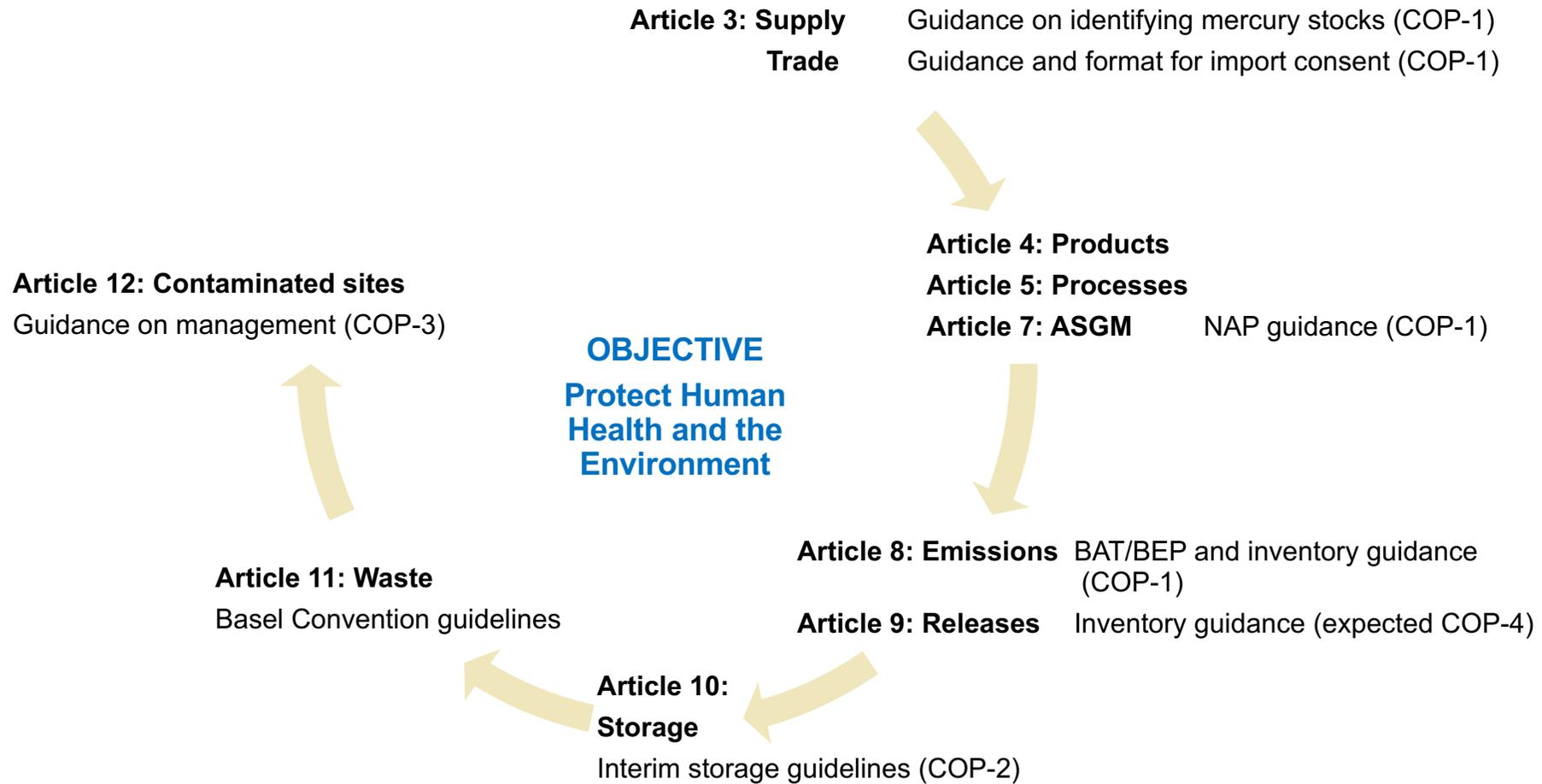
Local risk factors



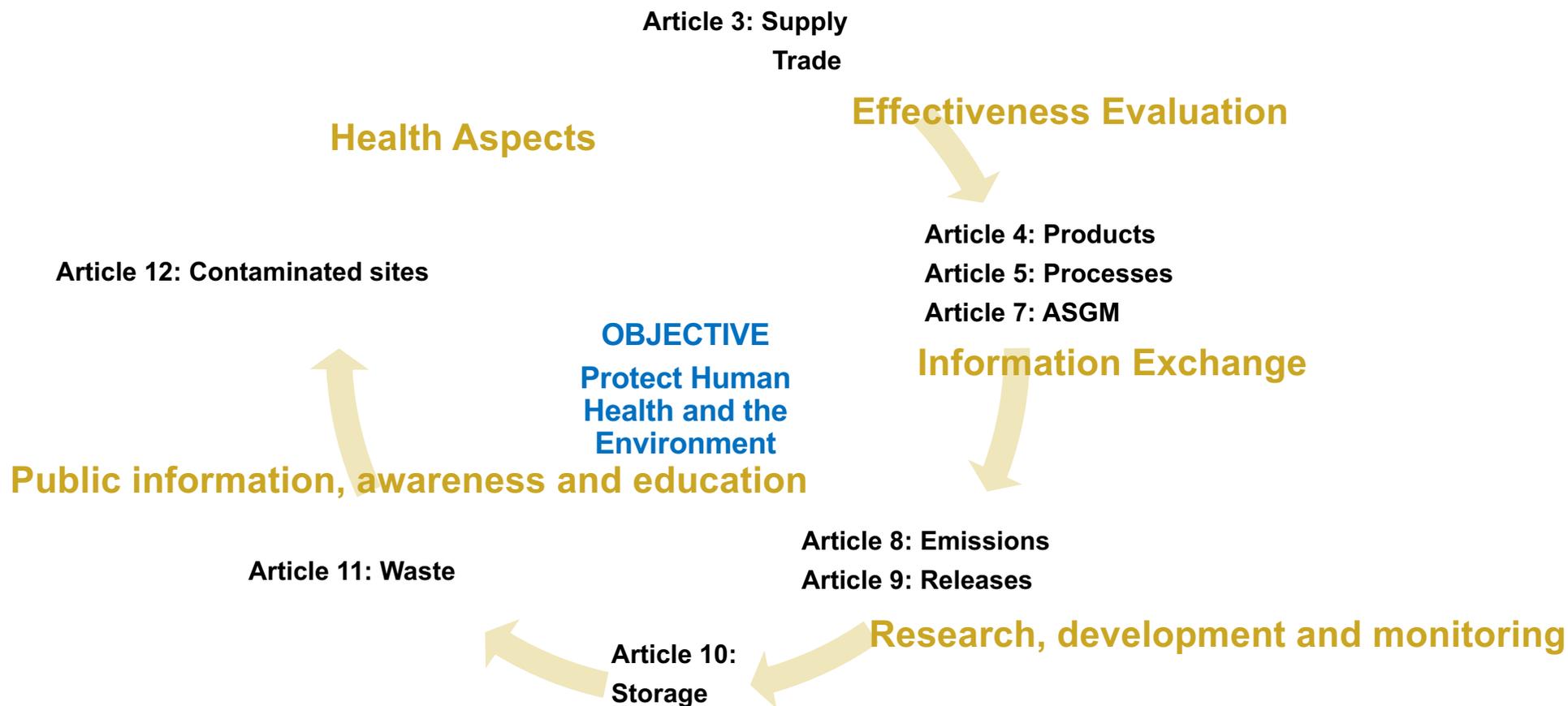
Global Risk Factors



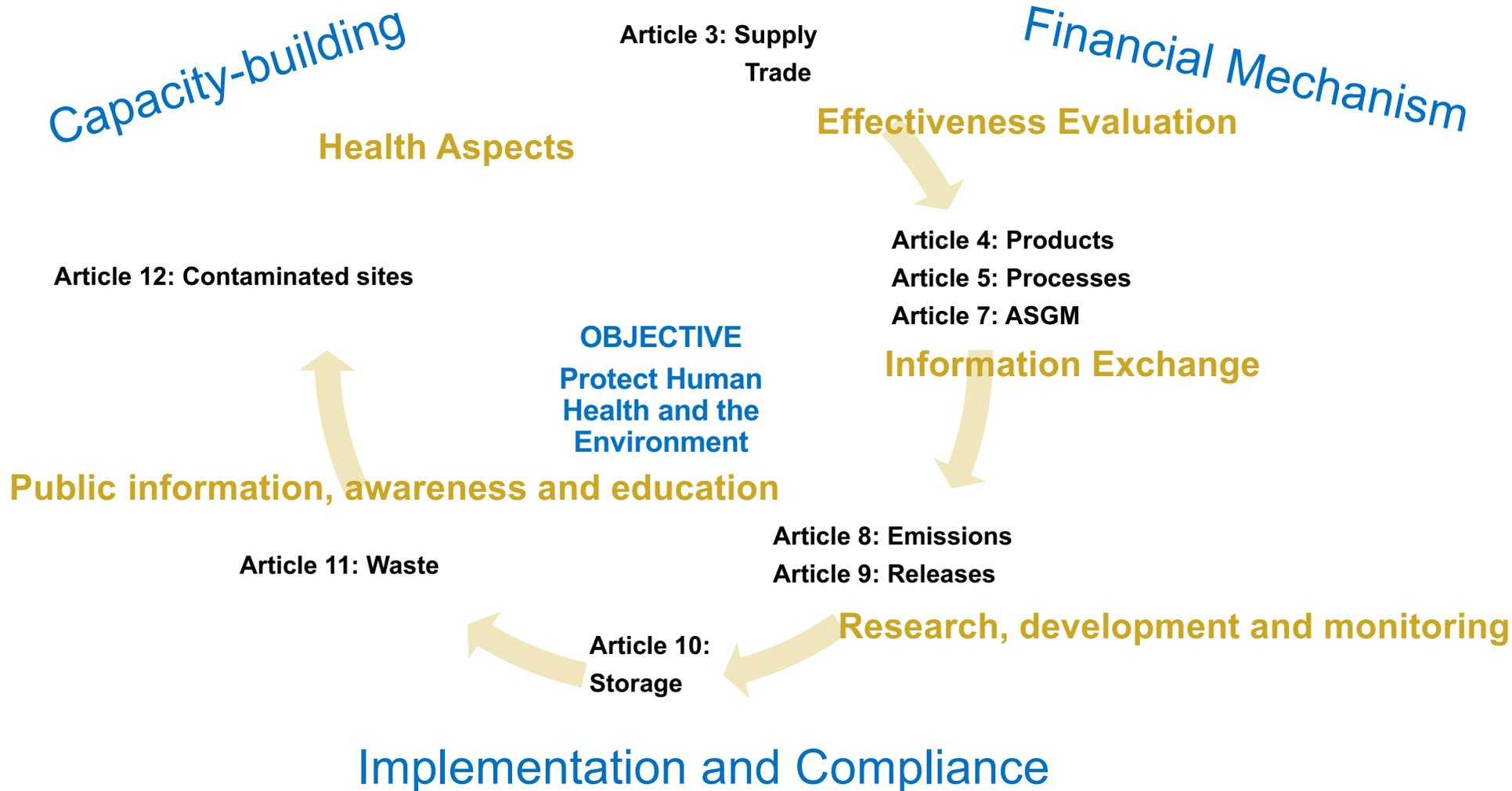
The Minamata Convention



The Minamata Convention



The Minamata Convention



ASGM in the Minamata Convention

- Unique among MEAs in treatment of informal sector
- Recognizes that women are particularly vulnerable to the occupational hazards in ASGM
- Approach: flexible to meet country circumstances
- National Action Plans must include “Strategies to prevent the exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children and women of child-bearing age, especially pregnant women, to mercury used in artisanal and small-scale gold mining”
- Countries must also implement!



ASGM and Women in the Informal Economy

- “the mining system stands out for the feminization of poverty and the undervaluation of female work” (GEF)
- Double whammy vis a vis the pandemic and global supply chain interruptions
- ILO estimates that 90% of total employment in low-income countries is in informal sectors. Informal ≠ illegal.
- ILO recommendation on Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy: “the high incidence of the informal economy in all its aspects is a major challenge for the rights of workers...and for social protection, decent working conditions...”
- OECD Multi-stakeholder steering group 2019 Statement on Implementing Gender-Responsive Due Diligence ... in mineral supply chains: “ensure that every project is started with a gender lens in design and monitoring” and 2020 COVID-19 Call to Action for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains



Mercury Use in Products and Processes

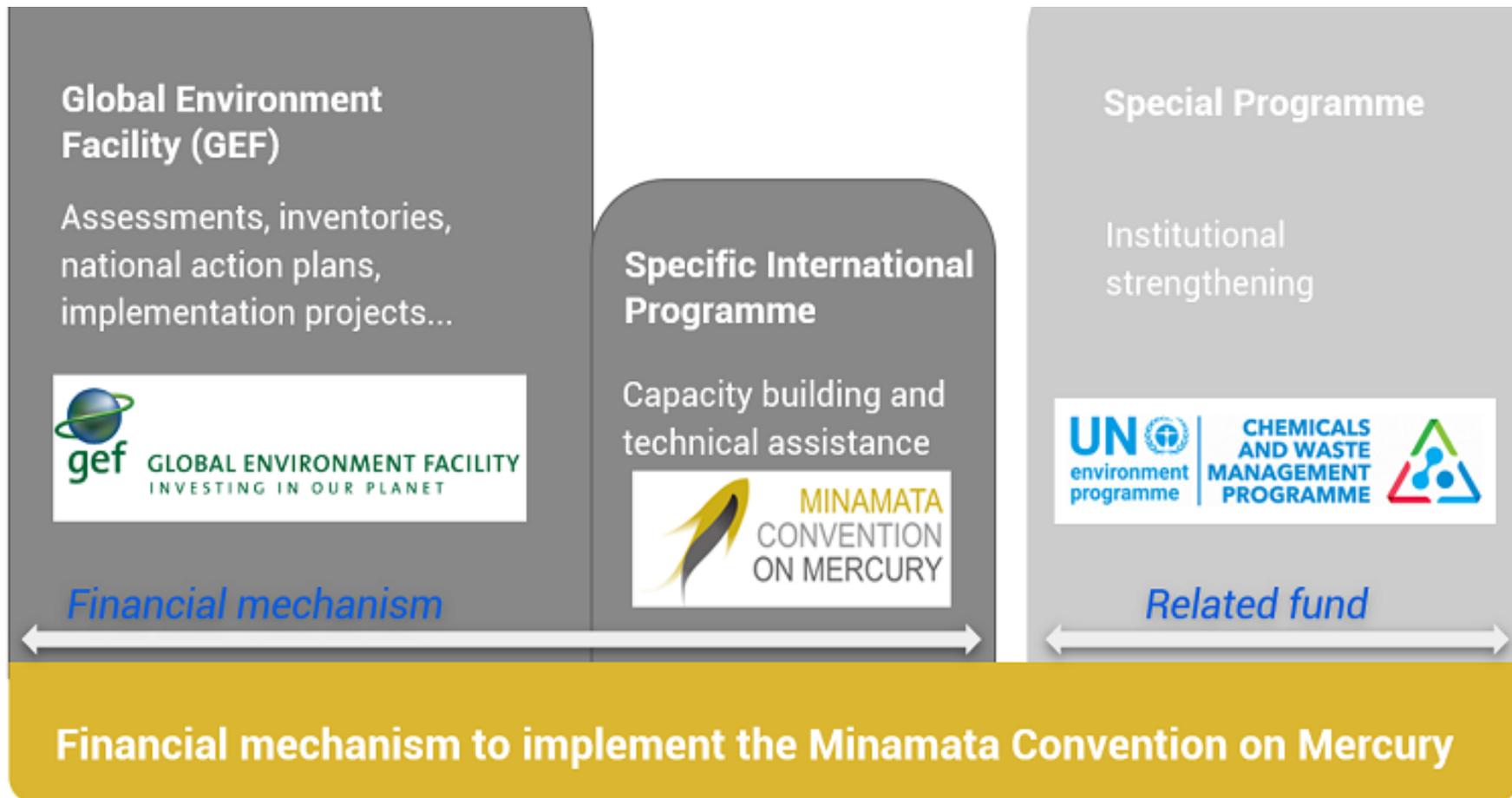
- 2020 phase out of manufacturing, import and export of mercury-added products listed in Annex A including batteries, switches, lamps, cosmetics, thermometers.
- Phase down measures for dental amalgam.



- Annex B lists industrial processes using mercury to be addressed – chlor-alkali production, vinyl chloride monomer production, etc.
- Review of annexes no later than 2022; Ad hoc Group of Experts are meeting.



The Minamata Convention Financial Mechanism



Global Environment Facility

- USD 206 million indicatively allocated to Minamata in GEF-7.
- Explicit gender-responsive approaches such as:
 - Ensuring women's participation and role in natural resources decision-making processes
 - Targeting women as specific beneficiaries and investing in women's skills and capacity
 - Supporting women's improved access, use, and control of natural resources.
 - Considering gender in the chemicals and wastes value chain.



Ecuador Program for the Environmentally Sound Management of Chemical Substances in their Life Cycle



Specific International Programme

- Steady implementation of projects approved in the First Round (2018)
- Good progress to initiate implementation of projects approved in the Second Round (2019)

5 Projects Selected by the Governing Board for the First Round

Argentina: Capacity Building Programme for the implementation of the Minamata Convention. Read more about the project [here](#).

Armenia: Strengthening capacity to promote phasing-out of mercury-added products (lamps) in Armenia. Read more about the project [here](#).

Benin: Improvement of management framework for mercury-containing products and wastes. Read more about the project [here](#).

Iran: Implementing of Minamata Convention on Mercury Management in Chlor-Alkali Plants in the Petrochemical Industry

Lesotho: Strengthening institutional capacity in the development of a phase-out and phase down strategy for mercury-added products in Lesotho. Read more about the project [here](#).

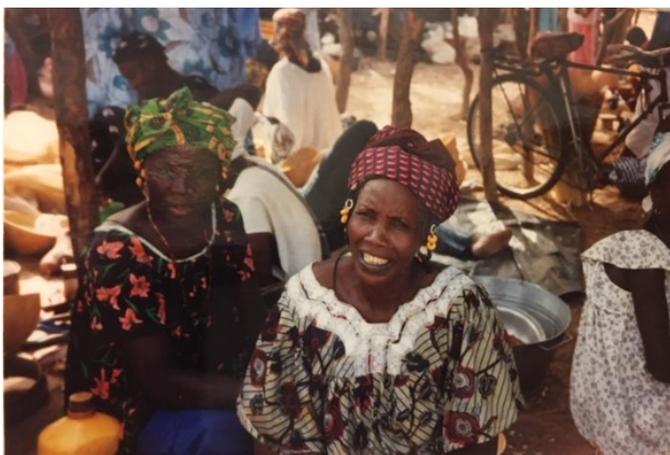
10 Projects Selected by the Governing Board for the Second Round

- **Antigua and Barbuda:** Facilitating capacity-building with technical assistance and technology transfer for managing mercury in the Caribbean
- **Ecuador:** Project to strengthen capacities in the implementation of the Minamata Convention in Ecuador
- **Ghana:** Strengthening Ghana's Health Sector for the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- **Indonesia:** Improving Health Risk Control of Mercury Exposure in Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) and Surrounding Areas by Developing the "Participatory Approach" Model
- **Iran:** Capacity Building for Effective Implementation of Minamata Convention Focusing on Mercury Inventory
- **Moldova:** Support to post-ratification of the Minamata Convention to the Republic of Moldova by building phase down capacities and reducing risks associated with mercury
- **Nigeria:** Capacity strengthening for the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Nigeria
- **Peru:** Strengthening capacities to control emissions and releases of mercury in Peru
- **Sri Lanka:** Strengthening National Capacity for Phasing Out Mercury Added Products and Environmentally Sound Mercury Containing Waste Management in Sri Lanka
- **Zambia:** To strengthen the Institutional Capacity for Zambia to implement the obligations of the Minamata Convention by reducing the presence of mercury in vulnerable populations as provided for under Articles 16 and 18



Looking forward: Strengthening Digital Learning and Knowledge Exchange

Delivering capacity building and technical assistance support to the Minamata Parties in light of COVID-19 restrictions has prompted the Minamata Secretariat to engage with donors and experts on how to best strengthen the Secretariat's ability to deliver more digital learning and knowledge exchange opportunities for 2020-2021.

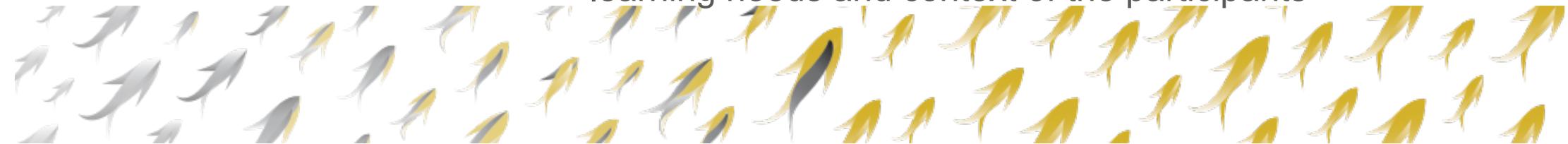


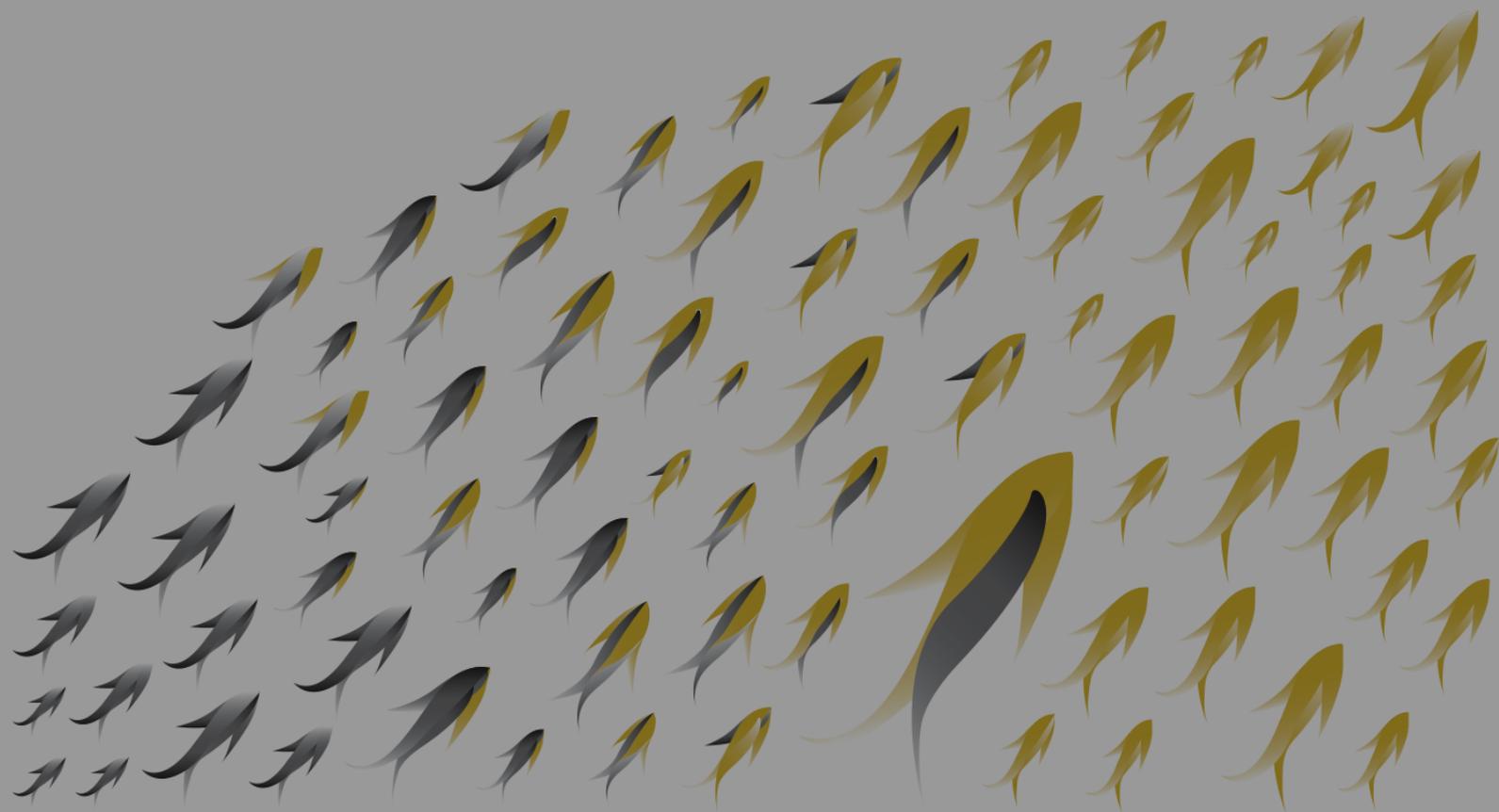
Digital learning tends to be more gender equitable than face-to-face learning

Must ensure that any gaps in access to digital technologies do not exacerbate gender inequalities

“Presence does not necessarily mean participation” (GGEO)

Design must have interactive elements and must address the learning needs and context of the participants





MAKE MERCURY HISTORY