

Release of the

Technical Background Report to the Global Mercury Assessment 2018

The UN Environment *Global Mercury Assessment 2018* was presented at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) meeting in Nairobi, February 2019.

The GMA 2018 is based upon extensive, peer-reviewed technical documentation that is compiled in the *Technical Background Report to the Global Mercury Assessment 2018*.

The technical report comprises chapters addressing:

- Recent advances in understanding of global mercury cycling
- Global emissions of mercury to the atmosphere from anthropogenic sources
- Levels of mercury in air
- Atmospheric pathways, transport and fate
- Releases of mercury to the aquatic environment from anthropogenic sources
- Mercury concentrations in biota
- Relationships between trends in atmospheric mercury and mercury in aquatic biota,
- Mercury levels and trends in human populations worldwide

It also includes the results of work under the GMA to prepare an updated and spatially distributed inventory of global emissions of mercury to air in 2015 from anthropogenic sources, and a first global inventory of releases to aquatic environments.

The Technical Background Report to the Global Mercury Assessment 2018 was produced by an international team of experts convened through a collaboration between UN Environment and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP). World Health Organization experts contributed to sections dealing with mercury exposure in humans.

An electronic 'pre-print' of the technical report, including its electronic Annexes containing global inventory results, will be released 10 September 2019 and available from:

<https://www.amap.no/documents/doc/technical-background-report-for-the-global-mercury-assessment-2018/1815>

The GMA 2018 (policy-makers summary), together with translations of the report 'key findings' in six languages, are available electronically from:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/publication/global-mercury-assessment-2018>

Printed copies of the GMA reports can be ordered by contacting amap@amap.no or metals@un.org