

**REPORTING PERIOD:**

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

**UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION**

*Attachments can be found on the website*

**DISCLAIMER**

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**▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY**

## 1. Information on the party

**Name of party**

Argentina

**Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited**

25 September 2017

**Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party**

24 December 2017

## 2. Information on the national focal point

**Full name of the institution**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship

**Title of National Focal Point**

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Focal Point is submitting the national report

- ☐ Information is submitted by the national focal point
- ☒ Information is submitted through the national focal point by the contact officer

#### a3\_subsection

Full name of the institution

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Title of contact officer

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#### ▼ ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

**3.1. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Additional information on this question if needed

{Empty}

**3.2. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**3.3. Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**ba34\_subsection**

\*If the party answered Yes to Question 3 above:

**i. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.**

A facility was identified where there are stocks greater than 50 tons in our territory. It corresponds to a mining industry where, from the extraction of gold, elemental mercury is obtained as a by-product. The average annual elemental mercury production is 70 tons, depending on the activity and the concentration in the parent rock.

This information can be consulted in the Report on the Assessment of National Capacities for the Implementation of the Minamata Convention (MIA). It is attached hereto and is publicly accessible through the MAdS website: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/control/productos-quimicos/evaluacion>

**i. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.**

- [ARG\\_3.3.pdf](#)

**ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information, for example on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks and sources.**

The mercury obtained is now considered and treated as hazardous waste. Due to the fact that Argentina does not have authorized operators to treat elemental mercury, it needs to be exported for its treatment and final disposal and, as a consequence, until the time of export, the mercury must be stored in an environmentally sound manner. Elemental mercury is stabilized and transformed into mercury sulfide (HgS), to later be sent for burial in a former mine authorized for this purpose as a final disposal site for hazardous waste.

**3.4. Does the party have excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**3.5. \*Has the party received consent, or relied on a general notification of consent, in accordance with article 3, including any required certification from importing non-parties, for all exports of mercury from the party's territory in the reporting period?**

- ☐ Yes, exports to parties
- ☐ Yes, exports to non-parties
- ☒ No

**Additional information if needed**

Argentina, in the reported period, has not exported elemental mercury.

**3.6. Has the party allowed the import of mercury from a non-party?**

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ The importing party has relied on paragraph 7 of article 3

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

Since the entry into force of the Convention, Argentina has imported the following quantities of mercury and mercury compounds:

- 20,625 kilograms of elemental mercury from Mexico to be used in the cells of a chlor-alkali plant.
- 7,000 kilograms of mercuric chloride to be used for the manufacture of thimerosal.

Imports of inputs.

\* Amounts of mercury imported for use as dental amalgam are not included.

\* Imports of mercury, mixtures and compounds that are used for laboratory research or as a reference standard are not included, since they are excluded from the scope of the Convention and national regulations, in addition to the fact that the amounts are not relevant.

**▼ ART. 4: MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS**

**4.1. Has the party taken any appropriate measures to not allow the manufacture, import or export of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A of the Convention after the phase-out date specified for those products?**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4)

**If yes, please provide information on the measures.**

Resolution 75/2019 of the former Secretary of the Government of the Environment and Sustainable Development established the prohibition, as of January 1, 2020, of the manufacture, import and export of products with added mercury detailed in Annex I, for the purposes of complying with the MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY.

Then, Resolution 299/2021 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development modified and expanded the list of mercury-added products reached, also including cosmetics with a mercury content greater than 1 ppm and pesticides (already previously prohibited by the competent national authority).

In this way, Argentina complies with the restrictions and controls on the manufacture and foreign trade of mercury-added products included in the Convention. It is worth mentioning that the restrictions established by the MAyDS are complementary to the prohibitions and controls of the different



competent authorities that, in many cases, already had established the necessary regulations to guarantee the disuse of mercury. The specific reference regulations are detailed below:

Law No. 26,184 on Portable Electric Power (November 2006), establishes in its Article 1, the prohibition in the entire territory of the Nation, of the manufacture, assembly and import of primary cells and batteries, with cylindrical or prism shape, common zinc carbon (Zn/C) and alkaline manganese (Zn/MnO<sub>2</sub>) whose content exceeds 0.0005% by weight of mercury. Likewise, Resolution 443/2020 establishes that for button batteries, the mercury mass content of each battery must be less than or equal to TWO PERCENT (2%) and modifies the certification process for obtaining import authorisation for primary cells and batteries.

Law No. 26,473 (Dec 2008) prohibits the import and sale of incandescent lamps.

In 2009, the Ministry of Health adopted the Policy of the World Health Organization for the minimization of exposure and replacement of mercury in the health sector, through MSN Resolution No. 139/2009; through which all hospitals and health centers in the country were instructed so that, based on the new procedures for the purchase of supplies, sphygmomanometers and clinical thermometers be acquired free of mercury.

In 2010, the Ministry of Health prohibited the production, importation, trade or free transfer of mercury column sphygmomanometers for the evaluation of blood pressure intended for the general public, for medical and veterinary care, through MSN Resolution No. 274/2010 .

Mercury and its compounds are prohibited as a cosmetic ingredient by ANMAT Provision No. 6433/2015, order 221, in all products except as a preservative agent of the formulation in products for the eye area, in maximum concentrations of 0.007%, Provision ANMAT No. 2035/2012 order 15 and 16.

SENASA Resolution No. 532/11 prohibited the production, import, export, fractionation, marketing and use of active substances, including mercury chloride, as well as phytosanitary products formulated based on them, for agricultural use, throughout the territory of the Republic of Argentina. Likewise, through SAGPyA Resolution No. 750/2000 of the National Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food, the pesticide of mercury phenylacetate was prohibited.

#### **4.3. Has the party taken two or more measures for the mercury-added products listed in Part II of Annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**If yes, please provide information on the measures.**

Encourage representative professional organizations and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals and students on the use of non-mercury alternatives in dental restoration and the promotion of best management practices;

Promote the use of best environmental practices in dental offices to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and soil.

#### **4.4. Has the party taken measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed under article 4?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**4.5. Has the party discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of mercury-added products not covered by any known use in accordance with article 4, paragraph 6?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

If no, has there been an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product that demonstrates environmental or health benefits? Has the party provided to the secretariat, as appropriate, information on any such product?

☐ Yes

☒ No

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

Argentina has informed the Convention about the use of the exemption only for the manufacture of industrial thermometers since it has an industry that still uses mercury technology to manufacture measuring instruments that are difficult to replace.

**▼ ART. 5: MANUFACTURING PROCESSES IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED**

**5.1. Are there facilities within the territory of the party that use mercury or mercury compounds for the processes listed in Annex B of the Minamata Convention in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 5 of the Convention?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ I do not know

If yes, please provide information on measures taken to address emissions and releases of mercury or mercury compounds from such facilities.

There is a chlor-alkali plant in Argentina that uses mercury cells in its production process

If available, please provide information on the number and type of facilities and the estimated annual amount of mercury or mercury compounds used in those facilities.

The only plant, located in the City of Bahía Blanca, province of Buenos Aires, uses an annual average of 10 tons of elemental mercury.

Please provide information on how much mercury (in metric tons) is used in the processes listed in the two first entries of Part II of Annex B in the last year of the reporting period.

There are no industries in the country that use any of the processes listed in Part II of Annex B.

**5.2. Are measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in Part I of Annex B after the phase-out date specified in that Annex for the individual process?**

## CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

## ACETALDEHYDE PRODUCTION IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED AS A CATALYST

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If no to either of the questions above, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

**5.3. Are measures in place to restrict the use of mercury or mercury compounds in the processes listed in Part II of Annex B in accordance with the provisions set out therein?**

## VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER PRODUCTION

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

## SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

## PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

☒ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

**5.4. Is there any use of mercury or mercury compounds in a facility using the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**5.5. Is there any facility that has been developed using any other manufacturing process in which mercury or mercury compounds are intentionally used that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

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**▼ ART. 7: ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING**

**7.1. Have steps been taken to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 within your territory?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ There is no artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 in which mercury amalgamation is used in the territory

**7.2. Has the party determined and notified the secretariat that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

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## ▼ ART. 8: EMISSIONS

### 8.1. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8.

For each of those source categories describe the measures in place, including the effectiveness of such measures, to implement the requirements of paragraph 4 of article 8.

- ☐ Coal-fired power plants
- ☐ Coal-fired industrial boilers
- ☐ Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
- ☐ Waste incineration facilities
- ☐ Cement clinker production facilities

Has the party required the use of best available techniques or best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control and where feasible reduce emissions for new sources no later than 5 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

#### Please explain

No new emission sources of mercury or mercury compounds have been identified.

#### Attach relevant documentation

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### 8.2. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are existing sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (e) of article 8.

For each of those source categories, select and provide details on the measures implemented under paragraph 5 of article 8 and explain the progress that these applied measures have achieved in reducing emissions over time in your territory:

#### ▼ COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☒ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

#### Measures

The national inventory of emissions and releases of mercury (2016) identified in Argentina a working electric power generation plant based on the combustion of mineral coal. In 2016, air emissions from the plant reached 32 kg of mercury (0.45% of total air emissions), according to

the UNEP Toolkit. This is the San Nicolás Thermal Power Plant, which is located in the province of Buenos Aires and has an installed capacity of 675 MW<sup>56</sup>. The plant consumes two types of coal—South African coal and Colombian coal—which have different concentrations of mercury. Since the plant has only large particle retention (ESP retention), There is also a second thermal power plant that consumes coal as fuel located in the city of Río Turbio, province of Santa Cruz.

#### **Progress**

A strategy to control and mitigate mercury emissions and releases is under development.

#### **▼ COAL-FIRED INDUSTRIAL BOILERS**

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☒ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

#### **Measures**

According to the National Inventory of Mercury Emissions and Releases (2016), industrial coal-fired boilers emitted a total of 7kg of mercury per year.

#### **Progress**

A strategy to control and mitigate mercury emissions and releases is under development.

#### **▼ SMELTING AND ROASTING PROCESSES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF NON-FERROUS METALS**

- ☒ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☒ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☒ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

#### **Measures**

Unlike what was done in the 2014 Inventory, in the new survey the production of zinc was not quantified, due to the cessation of its production in the country at the beginning of 2016. In addition, the production of lead and alumina were not analyzed in the Inventory either, since it has been reported that the ore used for lead production does not contain mercury and that alumina is not produced in Argentina. Therefore, of all the sources pointed out, for the function and calcination processes in the production of non-ferrous metals, only gold extraction by methods other than amalgamation corresponds. Mercury emissions in gold extraction were analyzed with a level 2 of the inventory toolkit giving a total of 44 kg emitted into the air.

### Progress

The main mine that obtains mercury as a by-product in its process has a mercury management plan that includes, among other things, an "Environmental Monitoring Plan (MAM-PVL-008) that includes monitoring of air quality and control of gaseous emissions. On a quarterly basis, the Department of the Environment monitors, through an external third party, evaluates the concentration of mercury vapors in chimneys located in the Processes sector and in the Chemical Laboratory in accordance with EPA 29 standard for the determination of mercury. The monitoring results are compared with the reference values (Law No. 5,965 and Decree 3,395/96).

### ▼ WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☒ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

### Measures

The country does not have a record of the total amount of waste (hazardous and non-hazardous) incinerated. Nor is there a complete registry that includes all hazardous waste operators located in the country. The tons of hazardous waste incinerated were estimated based on the registry of operators prepared by the then Directorate of Hazardous Waste (DRP) of the SAYDS for the national inventory (2016).

Regarding the concentration of mercury in waste, in the survey carried out for the development of the National Inventory it was concluded that the majority of the generators of hazardous waste sent for incineration did not belong to sectors that produce hazardous waste with mercury, since they mainly come from the hydrocarbon sector, from industries that do not use mercury in their production process and from the agricultural sector, therefore, the amount of mercury estimated to be found in hazardous waste treated in the country is low. Under the aforementioned hypotheses, this source would generate an estimated 224 kilograms of mercury emitted into the air for the year 2016.

Likewise, the formal incineration of pathogenic or medical waste would not be the main treatment of this type of waste since there are operators with autoclave technology. However, considering that this practice currently exists, it was estimated that this source was responsible for emitting some 441 kg of Hg into the air in 2016.

Decree No. 831/1993 regulating the National Hazardous Waste Law establishes the minimum requirements for incinerator operation. Among these requirements, it establishes that emission control technologies and strategies must be used that may not contain more than 30 ng/N m<sup>3</sup> of mercury in dry gas at 10% CO<sub>2</sub>.

### Progress

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### ▼ CEMENT CLINKER PRODUCTION FACILITIES

- ☐ A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources

- ☒ Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- ☐ Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- ☐ Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

### Measures

According to data obtained through the Association of Portland Cement Manufacturers, the cement industry in Argentina is made up of four main producers, which have a total of 18 plants: 15 have 21 clinker kilns installed and the remaining 3, milling plants and/or mixers. The total production of cement in Argentina was 11,960,000 tons in 2017. Of the total produced, 5% includes the use of alternative fuels for its production through co-processing. This could increase emissions and releases of mercury since the waste could contain this metal.

To evaluate the production of cement with Level 1, the information available in the report "Statistical Data 2016" of the Association of Portland Cement Manufacturers (AFCP) was used as the activity rate, where it is indicated that the cement production in 2016 was 10,898,581 tons. The amount of mercury generated per ton of cement produced corresponds to the standard input factor, which in this case has a value of 0.136 g Hg/tn. For these calculations, total mercury releases correspond to 1,491 kilograms. Of these, nearly 75% goes into the air, while the rest is estimated to go into by-products and impurities. These results are reflected in the graphs of the report related to cement.

To calculate emissions and releases from Cement Production with a Tier 2 assessment, the Toolkit recommends performing an analysis with a point source approach, which means that the concentration of mercury in the raw material, the main fuel used, the annual production of cement, the mechanisms used to control emissions and the percentage of cement produced applying the co-processing technique of each cement production plant must be known. With this information it is possible to make calculations for each of the plants and then add the results to obtain the total value of emissions and releases corresponding to this source. In this way, accurate results are obtained that reflect production at the national level.

Obtaining data from each plant with the required level of detail was not possible, although towards the end of the MIA development, the NMinistry of Production of the Nation provided information on the cement industry. In this way, 4 values were accessed that correspond to mercury input factors between the years 2013 and 2016. These are based on records of analytical measurements of mercury in gaseous emissions, which in the case of 2016, the factor covers 14 records. In addition, these reported values were obtained based on three other factors: the flue gas emission rate (m<sup>3</sup> of gas/min), the associated clinker production to the furnace whose emission was surveyed (t clinker/h), and the clinker factor (clinker/cement ratio, by mass). It was not possible to know the sampling sites, so it is unknown if these records correspond to different plants or to different furnaces of some plants. The mechanisms used to control emissions were not reported, so it was not possible to select the scenario that corresponds to emission filters in the Toolkit. The value obtained for air emissions calculated at level 2 for cement production was 1,118 kg for the year 2016.

### Progress

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Have the measures for existing sources under paragraph 5 of article 8 been implemented no later than 10 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☐ Yes



☒ No

**Please explain**

The strategy and actions to establish the corresponding measures are under development.

### **8.3. Has the party prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the Convention for it?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Have not been a party for 5 years

**If yes, when was the inventory last updated?**

Sat, 12/31/2016 – 00:00

**Please indicate where this inventory is available**

The national inventory of mercury emissions and releases (based on the year 2016) was published in 2018 and can be consulted on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/control/chemical-products/evaluation>.

The same is attached to this

**Attach**

- [ARG\\_8.3.pdf](#)

### **8.4. Has the party chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**If yes, please explain how the criteria for any category include at least 75 percent of the emissions from that category and explain how the party took into account guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties.**

For the realization of the National Inventory of Emissions and Releases of Mercury based on 2016, the 58 potential sources of emission and release of mercury proposed by the Toolkit of the United Nations Program for the Environment have been evaluated in the country, and also detected the need to incorporate two others: i) Thimerosal production (Argentina is the only world producer of Thimerosal USP/BP/EP) and ii) Informal vehicle recycling (an extended practice in the country).

The analyzed sources were grouped into six categories to simplify the interpretation and presentation of the results: 1) Energy consumption and fuel production, 2) Production of metals and raw materials, 3) Production and processing with intentional use of mercury, 4) Waste management and recycling, 5) General consumption of mercury in products and 6) Crematoria and cemeteries.

It should be clarified that the analysis includes both direct releases to the environment (water, air or soil) and intermediate releases (in by-products and impurities, general waste or waste that will receive specific treatment and/or disposal). It is important to keep in mind when interpreting the results, that direct releases to the environment pose greater risks to potentially exposed populations. In addition, intermediate releases in the form of by-products and impurities or waste that will receive some type of treatment, in general, are linked to management systems that ensure their proper treatment and disposal and, therefore, substantially reduce the risk of exposure. General waste, meanwhile, is an intermediate release pathway, but can lead to direct releases, especially when not disposed of properly.

**8.5. Has the party chosen to prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions from relevant sources and its expected targets, goals and outcomes?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, has the party submitted its national plan to the Conference of the Parties under this article no later than 4 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☐ Yes

☒ No

**Please explain**

The plan is under development.

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

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**▼ ART. 9: RELEASES**

**9.1. Are there, within the party's territory, relevant sources of releases as defined in paragraph 2 (b) of article 9?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ I do not know

**Please indicate the measures taken to address releases from relevant sources and the effectiveness of those measures.**

According to the national inventory of mercury emissions and releases (2016), mercury releases in Argentina are generated, first of all, by the Production of metals and raw materials category, as they represent 63% of total releases.

The General Consumption of mercury in products is the second most relevant sector, with a total release of 20% of mercury. Waste management and recycling represents 6% of emissions and releases. However, it should be noted that this value only takes into account 10% of the total calculated for this category, because the Toolkit interprets that the rest of the mercury has already been considered in others. Analyzing this category independently, a total of 24,077 kilograms of mercury, while for the General Consumption of mercury in products a total of 20,131 kilograms of said metal is obtained. On the other hand, energy consumption and fuel production represents 6% of releases, while the other categories together do not represent more than 5% of emissions and releases. Among the measures established by Argentina to control and reduce mercury releases, the following stand out:

- Determination of relevant sources and inventory of mercury releases.
- Guide levels and discharge parameters for effluents with maximum mercury content established in national and local regulations.
- Demand for the treatment of industrial effluents required by environmental regulations.
- National strategy for closing dumps and Comprehensive Management of Urban Solid Waste (GIRSU).

## 9.2. Has the party established an inventory of releases from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the convention for it?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ Relevant sources do not exist in the territory
- ☐ Have not been a party for 5 years
- ☐ No

**When was the inventory last updated?**

2016-12-31

**Please indicate where this inventory is available**

The national inventory of mercury emissions and releases (based on the year 2016) was published in 2018 and can be consulted on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/control/productos-quimicos/evaluacion>.

The same is attached here.

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

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## ▼ ART. 10: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY

### 10.1. Has the party taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I do not know

**Please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner and the effectiveness of those measures.**

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development developed a guide with the guidelines and minimum requirements for the safe storage of mercury and its compounds.

The Ministry of Health has established recommendations for the safe management of mercury in health centers. In addition, the ANMAT establishes the warnings and considerations for the safe handling and storage of approved products with mercury, including dental amalgams.

Likewise, the regulations referring to hygiene and safety at work are relevant:

- Law No. 19587 on Hygiene and Safety at Work and complementary regulations (Regulations of scope throughout the national territory that regulate the use, handling and disposal safety from hazardous materials in the workplace).
- Resolution No. 801 of the Superintendency of Occupational Risks (SRT). Approves the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemical Products (GHS/GHS) in the workplace.

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

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#### ▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

##### **11.1. Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party's mercury waste?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.**

Argentina has national and local regulations that guarantee the environmentally sound management of mercury waste (Law 24,051 and complementary regulations).

Argentina is a party to the Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous waste and its disposal and complies with the obligations established therein, including the prior informed consent process for authorizations of transboundary movements. It is worth clarifying that Argentina has an absolute ban on the entry of hazardous waste into its territory.

##### **11.2. Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ I do not know

**Please explain**

There are no authorized establishments or operators that have the technology to treat and dispose of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds. To date, said waste has been exported for treatment and final disposal outside of Argentina.

#### **Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

The challenges that Argentina has encountered to strengthen the environmentally sound management of mercury waste are:

- Establishment of differentiated management programs for waste products with mercury added that come from homes.
- Treatment and final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds since there is no technology enabled in the country and consequently the costs of exporting said hazardous waste are very high.

#### ▼ ART. 12: CONTAMINATED SITES

##### **12.1. Has the party endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Please elaborate**

Some of the actions and strategies developed by Argentina for the detection and evaluation of sites contaminated with mercury and its compounds are detailed below:

A minimum budget bill has been prepared and presented to Congress that proposes the regulation of the management of contaminated sites. This project deals with the management of contaminated sites throughout the national territory and, in terms of mercury management, the Minamata Convention is included in the considerations. This is why its treatment in the National Congress is encouraged, so that it is feasible to have a legal framework that governs the entire national territory. It is currently under review by the National Environmental Authority.

In order to investigate whether the provinces are indeed aware of the existence of sites potentially contaminated or contaminated with mercury within their jurisdictions, and within the framework of Article 12 of the Minamata Convention, a request for information was sent to the provincial authorities. Attached to the request for information were criteria that may indicate the presence of a site potentially contaminated with mercury. No potential contaminated site has been identified so far.

Provincial training workshops on the Minamata Convention have been held in the early stages of implementation. In these workshops, information was provided on methodologies for the identification of sites contaminated with mercury. Participants were also asked about the existence of already identified contaminated sites.

Thanks to the support of the SIP Project, a local unit was strengthened to assist the national environmental authority in sampling, processing and other mercury control activities, including the study of potentially contaminated sites.

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

No additional comments.

**▼ ART. 13: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM**

**13.1. Has the party undertaken to provide, within its capabilities, resources in respect of those national activities that are intended to implement the Convention in accordance with its national policies, priorities, plans and programmes?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Please specify**

In 2018, the initial evaluation of Argentina's capacities was carried out to implement the Minamata Convention (MIA). As a result, it was possible to identify the priorities to be addressed in the country. In the framework of art. 13 of the Convention, Argentina benefited from being able to carry out the capacity building program to implement the Minamata Convention supported by the Trust Fund of the Specific International Program (SIP). Within the framework of this program, the national training plan was carried out in reference to the Minamata Convention and mercury management, an assessment of mercury exposure in LDCs and its relationship with gender, as well as the strengthening of analytical capabilities at two public universities to support mercury control through mercury monitoring.

Likewise, in 2020, Argentina received financing from the GEF to carry out two pilot projects in reference to the management of mercury and its compounds in the chlor-alkali plant and mining residues, in addition to updating the national inventory of emissions and releases of mercury that is in process.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

**13.2. Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

Argentina has not contributed to the financial mechanism of the Convention.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

**13.3. Supplemental: Has the party provided financial resources to assist developing-country parties and/or parties with economies in transition in the implementation of the Convention through other bilateral, regional and multilateral sources or channels?**

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

Argentina has not provided financial resources to assist other developing countries.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

No additional comments.

**▼ ART. 14: CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

**14.1. Has the party cooperated to provide capacity-building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

Argentina has the Basel Regional Center For South América (CRBAS) under the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) which has collaborated and supported the implementation of the Minamata Convention within the region.

## 14.2. Supplemental: Has the party received capacity-building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14?

☒ Yes

☐ No

### Please specify

Argentina has received technical assistance and strengthening of its national capacities for the implementation of the Minamata Convention in the reported period. The most relevant actions are detailed below:

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention

UNEP

Regional Center of Argentina.

Uruguay Regional Center

Mercury Partnership

Civil Society Organizations

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

## 14.3. Has the party promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Other

### Please specify

No activities to report.

## Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

### ▼ ART. 16: HEALTH ASPECTS

## 16.1. Have measures been taken to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 16?

☒ Yes

☐ No

### Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has carried out local campaigns where officials and local authorities were urged to carry out communication campaigns on the subject and were provided with reference materials and technical assistance. Likewise, they were asked to prepare reports on the implemented campaigns.

The Directorate of Hazardous Substances and Waste of the MArDS created in March 2018 an

Interministerial Board of Substances and Chemical Products that has met monthly and that seeks to achieve coordination between all the bodies with competence in the management of chemical products. The Board has the participation of, among others, the Agroindustry, Mining and Energy, Modernization, Production, Foreign Affairs, Health, Security, Labor and Transportation agencies, as well as the Argentine National Gendarmerie, the Argentine Naval Prefecture, the INTI, SENASA and Customs. Within the framework of the Board, the following activities related to mercury management have been developed:

- Training on the Minamata Convention and its implications.
- Completion of a questionnaire and compilation of information on the institutional capacities of the organizations that constitute the Board for the adequate fulfillment of the Convention.
- Validation of coordination procedures between agencies for proper compliance with the Convention.

In 2018, the Ministry of Health held a conference that brought together national dental leaders where the following topics were addressed: Study of the use of dental amalgam in Argentine dentistry; Scope of the Minamata Convention in the health sector with an emphasis on dentistry; Hg cycle in the environment and its toxic effects; The management of dental amalgam waste; Analysis of the replacement of dental amalgams by alternative materials without mercury.

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Health jointly developed training programs for the environmental management of mercury and the prevention of its impacts on health and the environment. Likewise, the Environment MAYDS prepared graphic material that was disseminated on social networks on the effects of mercury on health. They can be found here: <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/audiovisual/mercurio>

## 16.2. Have any other measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16?

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.**

An ad hoc group was formed within the framework of the Food Security Network of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET). D. The objective of this network is to develop and analyze information, with a scientific-technological basis, on the current situation regarding Food Security in Argentina so that it serves as a basis for the adoption of public policies. Tasks, activities and functions of the Ad hoc Research Group:

1. Survey of the bibliography on mercury monitoring in food and water

2. Report on the status of the situation, including at least the following points:

Limit values: Survey of existing thresholds in national regulations and evaluation of their consistency with international values and with the national situation. Vulnerable populations: Analysis of the regions with vulnerable populations due to anthropogenic or natural releases/emissions. Assessment of the situation at the regional/global level: Comparison of threshold values and technologies. Evaluation of traces in import/export merchandise. Existence of regional food monitoring networks. Identification of public and private entities with potential for sampling and analysis. Intercomparison and validity of the studies: Verification of the status of quality certification/accreditation and proposals for improvement.

Likewise, a working table was established with civil society where the following activities related to mercury management have been developed: • Training on the Minamata Convention and its implications. • Circulation of technical documents so that organizations can express their opinion. • Exchange of information on the subject.

## Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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▼ ART. 17: INFORMATION EXCHANGE

**17.1. Has the party facilitated the exchange of information referred to in article 17, paragraph 1?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Please provide more information, if any**

Argentina has exchanged information with multiple Parties in international work spaces and networks, among which the following stand out:

- Groups of experts formed within the framework of the Minamata Convention
- Working groups of the Global Mercury Partnership
- Intergovernmental Network of chemicals and waste for Latin America and the Caribbean, formed within the framework of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment.
- Adhoc group on chemicals and waste of the Sub-Working Group No. 6 on the Mercosur Environment.
- Exchanges between project teams financed by the GEF, the SIP and the Special Program.
- Publication of information on the MAYDS website.

**Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so**

{Empty}

▼ ART. 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

**18.1. Have measures been taken to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in article 18, paragraph 1?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**If yes, please indicate the measures that have been taken and the effectiveness of those measures**

MAYDS held provincial training workshops on the Convention in 9 provinces, in which more than 300 officials and technicians from different areas (environment, health, production, mining) participated. These workshops aimed to present the scope and obligations of the Convention, its implications for the provincial government, raise awareness about the importance of the issue, provide specific tools for management and collect relevant information.

Within the framework of the SIP Project for Argentina, a Comprehensive Mercury Seminar was held: Conducted virtually, it included the presentation of scientists and specialists in the field. The training cycle was made up of six modules that delved into the different topics related to mercury management. <https://aaqa.org.ar/pdfs/SeminarioHG2021.pdf>. The course materials have been made available for use in future editions.

Likewise, the MAYDS has developed and periodically updates a section on its website dedicated to the environmental management of mercury, where awareness campaigns have been presented on the health effects of this substance due to poor or inadequate management. web:

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ambiente/control/productos-quimicos/mercurio>

## Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

### ▼ ART. 19: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

#### 19.1. Has the party undertaken any research, development and monitoring in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19?

☒ Yes

☐ No

##### If yes, please describe these actions

Argentina has identified and compiled information on existing mercury environmental monitoring networks:

- Federal Environmental Monitoring Network (REDFEMA), which to date has been formed within the Environmental Information Center (CIAM)
  - Argentine Toxicology Network (REDARTOX), Currently under the purview of the Ministry of Health that links the Information, Advice and Toxicological Assistance Centers (CIAAT), the Clinical Toxicological Analysis Laboratories (LACT), the Information Centers on certain toxic risks (chemicals, toxins, labor, fetal , etc.) or specific intoxications, other laboratories and research institutes, as well as the teaching units that train toxicology in the Argentine Republic.
- The Matanza–Riachuelo Basin Monitoring Network.

Also, in the sites most affected by anthropogenic activity where mercury was historically used, work and studies have been carried out to monitor contaminants:

- Monitoring of contaminants in the Bahía Blanca estuary
- Monitoring in urban solid waste disposal areas of the province of Buenos Aires
- Monitoring in areas of mining exploitation in the province of San Juan
- Monitoring in the area of Cinco Saltos, Río Negro.

Likewise, the MArDS has surveyed and identified the public and private institutions with analytical capacity and that work in the study, monitoring and vigilance of mercury. Among other tools, it created the National Network of Environmental Laboratories (REDNALAB), which aims to gather information on the analytical capacities of laboratories so that it can be used as a source of public information.

Finally, a national strategy for monitoring and surveillance of polluting substances is under development, in which a pilot plan for the environmental monitoring of mercury has been developed with the collaboration of the SIP–Argentina Project.

## Part E – Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

### ▼ COMMENTS

#### Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention (Art. 21, para. 1)

- Challenges in the identification and control of international trade in mercury-added products due to the difficulty of identifying imported and exported goods in stock market tariff positions.
- Difficulty and high costs in the development and implementation of strategies for the treatment and final disposal of mercury-added products from households.
- High costs of treatment and final disposal of waste consisting of mercury and its compounds due to the lack of local technology.
- Challenges in the implementation of best environmental practices and best available technologies for the control and reduction of emissions and releases in existing sources.
- Complexity in conducting surveys and epidemiological studies with a gender focus on exposure to mercury and its residues.

#### ▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

### **Supplemental: Part D: Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any**

Question 8.2 in the Spanish version has an error and is repeated with question 8.1. Review the form.