

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY 2021

* Question 8.5 amended by Colombia on 12 July 2022

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UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Colombia

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

26 August 2019

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

24 November 2019

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Title of National Focal Point

Director of Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs

Name of National Focal Point

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3. Information about the contact officer submitting the reporting format if different from the above

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

▼ 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

Currently in Colombia there are no mercury extraction mines in operation according to what is published by the Colombian Mining Registry (CMC).

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

If the party answered No above, please explain.

In compliance with Decree 2133 of 2016, modified by Decree 1041 of 2018, INVIMA issued External Circular No. 1000-039-19 dated May 2019, which relates the quotas for the administration of mercury for the manufacture of amalgam dental classified by tariff subheading 2805.40.00.00 and its administration in accordance with the following provision:

1. Between July 16, 2018 and until July 15, 2020 4.5 tons.
2. Between July 16, 2020 and until July 15, 2021 3.5 tons
3. Between July 16, 2021 and until July 15, 2022 3 Tons
4. Between July 16, 2022 and until 14 of 2023 2.5 tons.

Due to the above, it is important to highlight that the Invima has already authorized the entry of the liquid mercury product for the commercialization of the Medical Device: Dental amalgams, where the imported mercury is commercialized together with the SILVER ALLOY FOR DENTAL AMALGAM: NU -ALLOY, corresponding to the first and second period for the importer PRODUCTORA Y COMERCIALIZADORA ODONTOLOGICA NEW STETIC SA NEW STETIC SA who complies with what is stated in the current sanitary regulations and which has sanitary registration No. INVIMA 2017DM-0000630-R2 in accordance with Decree 4725 of 2005 modified by Decree 582 of 2017: File 22028

Name of the Product: SILVER ALLOY AMALPARAGAMA DENTAL: NU-ALLOY

Sanitary Registry INVIMA 2017DM-000630-R2

Registration status: Valid

Validity: 03/08/2027

Manufacturer Name: PRODUCTORA Y COMERCIALIZADORA ODONTOLOGICA NEW STETIC SA PRODUCTORA.

Name of the Holder: COMERCIALIZADORA ODONTOLOGICA NEW STETIC SA.

It should be noted that the sanitary requirements for exporting products that are the responsibility of Invima, in this case dental amalgam, are established by the country of destination to which the product is going to be exported.

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

Not applicable, to the extent that Colombia is not a producer or exporter of 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

Imports of liquid mercury for the manufacture of SILVER ALLOY FOR DENTAL AMALGAM: NU-ALLOY, corresponding to the year 2020 come from Mexico, which is a country that is part of the Minamata Convention.

▼ 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 no, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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.

In relation to what is established in part II of annex A of the Convention, developments and measures adopted in the country are listed below, according to the guidelines:

i) In relation to "establishing national objectives aimed at the prevention of dental caries and health promotion, in order to minimize the need for dental restoration", since 2012 national goals have been included in the Ten-Year Public Health Plan (Resolution 1841 of 2012), as ordered by Law 1438 of 2011, that contribute to this end, such as:

By 2021, self-care practices for the prevention and management of NCDs, oral, visual and hearing health, from early childhood, in social settings and programs, will increase by 20%, from the baseline identified in 2014.

By 2021, the number of allied organizations that are linked and promote healthy lifestyles, oral, visual and hearing health and the control of NCDs is increased annually, at the national level, in coordination with the territorial entities, from the baseline identified in 2014.

By 2021, increase the country's population without caries by 20%, with emphasis on early childhood, childhood and adolescence Dental Caries Index (COP=0).

By 2021, increase by 20% the population over 18 years of age without tooth loss due to preventable oral disease.

ii) In relation to "establishing national objectives aimed at minimizing its use", in the same Ten-Year Public Health Plan (Resolution 1841 of 2012), the goal

By 2021, achieve compliance with the guidelines for the controlled use of fluoride and mercury in 100% of dental health services.

Additionally, and based on the results of the IV National Oral Health Study – ENSAB IV 2013–2014, the Comprehensive Care Route for Health Promotion and Maintenance (RIAPYMS), adopted by resolution 3280 of 2018, established the Specific protection interventions that are mandatory for health administrators and providers, in order to provide comprehensive actions for health promotion and disease prevention, including specific protection actions for oral health that allow the medium and long term to control the presence and progression of dental caries, and thus reduce the risk of using all types of filling materials, including dental amalgam.

iii) Regarding "promoting the use of cost-effective and clinically effective mercury-free alternatives for dental restoration" and "disincentivizing policies and insurance programs that favor the use of dental amalgam instead of dental restoration without mercury", in Colombia since Resolution 5261 of 1994, alternative dental materials of amalgam are covered. Said standard, and in accordance with the progress of technology supported by evidence, updates are made on average every two years, given which, in the current regulations Resolution 2481 of 2020, the performance of: 2321 Fillings 2322 Temporary Filling per tooth is contemplated.

Clarifying in Paragraph 2 of Article 34, that "Health services and technologies financed with UPC resources, include fillings regardless of the number of surfaces to be filled that are necessary at the discretion of the treating professional; as well as the filling materials as a result of light curing, glass ionomer and amalgam".

(iv) With regard to "Encouraging professional representative organisations and dental schools to educate and train professional dentists and students on the use of mercury-free alternatives in dental restoration and the promotion of best management practices", the work of associations such as the Colombian Association of Dentistry (ACFO) has been promoted and supported, who since 2010 have begun to incorporate into their curricula courses for the training of human talent in the early diagnosis of caries lesions using the clinical criteria of ICDAS and for the incorporation of actions for the early approach to dental caries, known as minimally invasive, which support the prevention actions adopted by the country and also seek to reduce any type of operative treatment and therefore the use of any type of fillings, including dental amalgams. So much progress has been made in this area that these processes are in the process of being adopted as part of the Integrated Health Care Routes defined in the Integrated Health Care Policy (Res 2626 of 2019).

v) In relation to "Limit the use of dental amalgam in its encapsulated form" and "Promote the use of best environmental practices in dental offices to reduce the release of mercury and mercury compounds into water and soil", from the Ministry, the document "Guidelines for the controlled use of dental amalgam in dentistry services. Guidelines within the framework of the commitments assumed in the Minamata Convention" (<https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/ENT/uso-controlado-amalgama.pdf>) which provides guidelines for the controlled management of amalgam including guidelines also provided by the Ministry of the Environment and which include the limitation of the use of dental amalgam in the encapsulated form, with Invima being the entity responsible for sanitary registrations and the implementation of good environmental practice guidelines to be applied by dental services in order 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

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

Through Resolution 0721 of 2018, the Ministry of Commerce in the company of the Ministry of Environment, jointly regulated zinc, carbon and alkaline batteries, which details the maximum permissible limits of mercury for said products.

On the other hand, it is also important to point out that for the particular case of added mercury there are regulations adopted by other entities. For example, the Ministry of Health has regulated matters related to mercury in tableware through Resolution 1893 of 2019, and in terms of paints, this same entity has been working on its process of preparing the regulation.

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 yes, please provide information on the measures.

Because mercury is not produced in the country, Decree 2133 of 2016 established control measures for the import and sale of mercury and products with mercury as established in article 1, including some minerals that contain mercury (balkanite, Eugénite, fettelite, moschellandsbergite, schachenerite, weishanite, polarite, temagamite, galkhaite, ruterite, mercury sulphates, merbromine, other chemically defined organomercuric compounds and those that are not chemically defined, batteries, primary batteries, electric, mercuric oxide, cylindrical, button and mercuric oxide, among other products, which must be registered with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

An annual import quota for elemental mercury was established for importation, in accordance with Decree 1041 of 2018, of up to 5 tons per year for activities other than mining; administered by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (0.5 tons) and by the National Institute for Food and Drug Surveillance – INVIMA (4.5 tons), which is gradually reduced until July 14, 2023.

As of July 15 July 2023, the import and use of elemental mercury is prohibited.

Regarding the regulations on labor matters, Decree 1072 of 2015, through which the Single Regulatory Decree of the Labor Sector is issued in its articles. 2.2.4.6.24 and 2.2.4.6.25 establishes the employer's obligation, within the framework of hazard identification, risk assessment and assessment, to establish prevention and control measures based on the relevance analysis, taking into account the following hierarchy scheme:

1. Elimination of the hazard/risk: Measure taken to suppress (make disappear) the hazard/risk;
2. Substitution: Measure taken in order to replace a hazard with another that does not generate risk or that generates less risk;
3. Engineering Controls: Technical measures to control the hazard/risk at its origin (source) or in the environment, such as confinement (enclosure) of a hazard or work process, isolation of a hazardous process or worker and ventilation (general and localized), among others;
4. Administrative Controls: Measures that aim to reduce the time of exposure to danger, such as personnel rotation, changes in the duration or type of work shift. They also include signage, warning, demarcation of risk areas, implementation of alarm systems, design and implementation of procedures and safe work, access controls to risk areas, work permits, among others.

On the part of the Health sector, the following stand out among the main activities:

– Signing of Law 1658 of 15 July 2013 "Whereby means of which provisions are established for the commercialisation and use of mercury in the different industrial activities of the country, requirements and incentives are established for its reduction and elimination and other provisions are enacted", Article 3 of which states that "The Ministries of Environment and Sustainable Development; Mines and Energy; Health and Social Protection and Labour will establish the necessary regulatory measures to reduce and eliminate in a safe and sustainable manner, the use of mercury in the different industrial activities of the country in a safe and sustainable manner. Eradicate the use of mercury throughout the national territory, in all industrial and productive processes within a period of no more than ten (10) years and for mining within a maximum period of five (5) years (...)". Consequently, since 2013, the manufacture and marketing of mercury-added products has decreased significantly in the country; it has been identified from this sector that the only industrial activity that continues to use mercury is the manufacture of dental amalgam. In this regard, it should be noted that the specific use of the mercury used in the manufacture of dental amalgams is directed towards products that fall within the concept of medical device and, therefore, require health registration in accordance with Article 2 of Decree 4725 of 2005 "Regulating the system of health registrations, marketing permits and health surveillance of medical devices for human use". From the health sector, the surveillance of processes and products derived from the manufacture of medical devices is carried out by the National Institute for the Surveillance of Medicines and Food (INVIMA).

Signing of two decrees aimed at establishing control measures for the import and sale of mercury and products that contain it, within the framework of the provisions of article 5 of Law 1658 of 2013:

1. Decree 2133 of 2016 "By which control measures are established for the importation and commercialization of mercury and the products that contain it, within the framework of the provisions of article 5 of Law 1658 of 2013".
2. Decree 1041 of 2018 "By which article 3 of Decree 2133 of 2016 is modified." The Ministry of Health and Social Protection is a signatory to these decrees.

Additionally, and in compliance with Decree 2133 of 2016, modified by Decree 1041 of 2018, INVIMA established criteria for mercury management, which were established in External Circular No. 1000-039-19 dated May 2019.

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

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▼ 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

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

If yes, please provide information on the steps.

In June 2016, the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Colombia, together with its affiliated and delegated entities: the National Mining Agency, the Mining and Energy Planning Unit, the Colombian Geological Service and the Antioquia Government Mining Secretariat, worked together on the construction of the Sectoral Strategic Plan for the elimination of the use of mercury in the mining sector, which was valid between 2016 and 2018 (Available at URL e2774fb2-e2a3-4229-8103-2183e5a71e18 (minenergia.gov.co)). In this plan, the goals were established to eliminate the use of mercury from small-scale mining and subsistence mining, as stated in Article 7 of the Minamata Convention, and in addition, Law 1658 of 2013 was complied with "by means of which provisions are established for the commercialization and use of mercury in the different industrial activities of the country, requirements and incentives are established for its reduction and elimination and other provisions are issued" in accordance with which the use of mercury in gold mining was prohibited as of July 15, 2018.

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

7.3. Has the party developed and implemented a national action plan and submitted it to the secretariat?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ In progress

7.4. Attach your most recent review that must be completed under paragraph 3 (c) of article 7, unless it is not yet due

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7.5. Supplemental: Has the party cooperated with other countries or relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objective of this article?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please provide information

Several cooperation agreements have been made with national and international entities:

- UNDP: with funds provided by the GEF, the UNDP is developing the project "Integrated Management for the Elimination of Mercury from Small-Scale Mining and Subsistence Mining in Colombia" on which aims to eliminate and/or avoid the use of 20 Tn Hg in the subsistence and small-scale mining sector, located in 11 municipalities of 4 of the main gold-producing departments.

- COMUNICA: an agreement was signed with the Canadian government through the Agre Team foundation, through which efforts aimed at knowledge management, education and communication are joined, allowing the launch of the e-learning course "Challenges and actions for integrated management of mercury in Colombia".

- PURE EARTH: support has been given to the project "Technology to recover mercury and gold from tailings to dispose of them safely", carried out with funds from the American Embassy.

- UNIDO: with funds from the European Union, the project for rural development and empowerment of community councils in the department of Choco through the sustainable use of natural and mineral resources is being carried out.

- BGI (Better Gold Initiative): the requirements of the mines included in the Ministry's technical assistance program and that were also at a high level of compliance were verified, so that they could export gold to Switzerland through the program of BGI international cooperation.

Please provide information

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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

In the current process of formulating the National Plan to control Unintentional Emissions of mercury into the atmosphere, the identification of new sources and the promotion of best available techniques or best environmental practices are planned to encourage the effective and progressive reduction of emissions. unintentional generated by the various sources.

Additionally, Colombia has resolution 909 of 2008 that regulates maximum standards for mercury emissions into the atmosphere; in Chapter XIX, it regulates the emission control systems that, in the case of mercury, apply to waste incineration facilities and/or hazardous waste, non-waste incineration facilities and cement kilns that carry out co-processing of waste and/or hazardous waste.

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

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Progress

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▼ 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

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Progress

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▼ 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

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Progress

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▼ 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

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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

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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

Colombia has been a Party to the Minamata Convention since August 26, 2019, so there is still time to implement measures on unintentional mercury emission sources, since intentional emissions were regulated and controlled from the Law 1658 of 2013.

Currently, there are mercury emission standards in force regulated in resolution 909 of 2008 for new and existing industries for waste and/or hazardous waste incineration facilities, non-hazardous waste incineration facilities, and cement kilns that carry out co-processing of waste and/or hazardous waste.

In the current process of formulating the NATIONAL PLAN TO CONTROL UNINTENTIONAL EMISSIONS OF MERCURY INTO THE ATMOSPHERE, the objective is to strengthen and update regulatory and technical instruments that allow the reduction of unintentional emissions of mercury into the atmosphere, for which plans to make a proposal to update said mercury emission standards into the atmosphere.

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

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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

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.

Through Resolution 0631 of 2015 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the parameters and maximum permissible limit values were established in punctual discharges to surface water bodies and to public sewage systems, including wastewater from public sewage service providers, mining extraction of coal, iron, gold and other precious metals, nickel and other non-ferrous metal ores, other mines and quarries, exploration, production and refining of hydrocarbons, manufacture of food products, prepared feed for animals, manufacture of oils and fats of animal and vegetable origin, manufacture of cardboard paper from recycled fibers, chemical substances and products, inorganic acids and their salts, plastics, pesticides, paints, of soaps and detergents, of pharmaceutical products, medicinal chemical substances, treatment and coating of metals, manufacture of cells, batteries and electric accumulators, of electrical lighting equipment, of machinery and equipment (electrolytic coatings), of motor vehicles, of auto parts, iron and steel, printing and lithography, manufacturing of rubber derivatives, electricity generation, treatment and disposal of waste, recycling of plastic and similar materials, recycling of drums, human health care activities, funeral parlors. of motor vehicles, auto parts, steel, printing and lithography, manufacture of rubber derivatives, electricity generation, treatment and disposal of waste, recycling of plastic and similar materials, recycling of drums, human health care activities, funeral parlors.

In 2013, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development issued Law 1658, which establishes the provisions for the commercialization and use of mercury in the different industrial activities of the country, establishing requirements and incentives for its reduction and elimination.

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?

2017-04-01

Please indicate where this inventory is available

With the support of UNIDO and the National Center for Cleaner Production, in April 2017, the Inventory of Anthropogenic Emissions and Releases of Mercury in Colombia was published as part of the early preparation for the Minamata Convention on Mercury (MIA).

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

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.

There are two types of waste streams that may contain mercury in the products that are part of the second article of Resolutions 1511 of 2010 (Light Bulb Waste) and 1297 of 2010, modified by Resolution 2246 of 2017 (Battery Waste). and/or Accumulators) of the current Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Minambiente).

Current batteries and/or accumulators and light bulbs are currently considered in the Selective Collection Systems and Environmental Waste Management as hazardous waste, and have mercury content in some of their products, and for this reason, the comprehensive management of this waste is intended solely for the full use of all its parts.

Currently, the waste collected through the Selective Collection Systems and Environmental Management of Waste Batteries and/or Accumulators and Light Bulbs, are managed in the national territory by duly authorized managers for the use and demercurization of this type of waste.

However, in relation to current batteries and/or accumulators, it was identified that the only batteries that contained mercury in their components are button-type batteries, which are used mainly in watches, hearing aids and calculators, and in larger forms for other apps. However, based on the fact that the batteries and/or accumulators that are marketed in Colombia are imported since there is no manufacturer in the country, likewise, and in accordance with European regulations on the matter (mercury), where Some countries established that as of October 1, 2016, only a maximum of 0.0005% of the button batteries used in watches, hearing aids, remote controls, toys and other devices would contain mercury, Royal Decree 106 of 01/02 /2008 – (Directive 91/157/CEE of 1991).

In relation to mercury-containing light bulb products, it has been determined that so-called energy-saving (low consumption) luminaires contain up to five (5) milligrams of mercury, and are the most common in consumers (homes –residences), (industry , commercial, official, educational and hospital) and (street lighting). The light bulbs that are currently in the scope of application of the Selective Collection Systems for Light Bulb Waste regulated by Resolution 1511 of 2010 are:

- Tubular fluorescent light bulbs (they can be straight or circular)
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs (commonly known as saving)
- Light bulbs for public lighting (sodium, mercury or metal halide).

In accordance with the foregoing, within the framework of the resolutions applicable to the Selective Collection Systems and Environmental Management of Waste Batteries and/or Accumulators (Resolution 1297 of 2010, modified by Resolution 2246 of 2017) and Light Bulbs (Resolution 1511 of 2010), from the ANLA and through the monitoring exercise carried out annually on the selective collection systems of the producers of the aforementioned currents, it is evaluated and requires that this type of waste be managed by duly authorized companies for the total use of the waste, which are initially collected by management companies that have environmental authorizations (licenses – permits) for the

storage and partial use of waste batteries and light bulbs that in most cases contain mercury, however, the majority of contaminated waste with mercury are reported as exploited by the national manager ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION – INNOVA SAESP.

In addition to the above, it has been verified that the waste collected and managed that contains mercury is properly managed in all its phases, until guaranteeing the use of 100% of all the components, including hazardous waste, however, it is necessary that tracks waste batteries, accumulators and light bulbs as such, and not mercury. In other words, it is determined that the waste contaminated with mercury has finally been used and/or included in recovery processes with a view to recycling, without evaluating the final destination of the recovered mercury.

Additionally, through the comprehensive waste management certificates issued by the national managers in charge of managing waste batteries and/or accumulators and light bulbs with mercury content, it is known that, once the mercury is separated from the waste, or they are decontaminated by means of technical equipment such as the mercury atomic absorption spectrophotometer, the decontaminated product is used to produce a wide variety of materials suitable for reincorporation into the production cycle, including plastics and metals, however, they are unknown the amounts, since the certificates do not report the kilograms of button-type battery waste and/or energy-saving light bulbs used in a discriminatory manner.

Finally, within the framework of the Selective Collection Systems and Environmental Management of Waste Batteries and/or Accumulators and Light Bulbs, from the moment that Colombia had duly authorized companies for the management of waste batteries and light bulbs containing mercury, these ceased to be exported for their proper use outside the country.

On the other hand, and in view of the Authorization process for the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and its Elimination, it is reported that since 2011 no requests for the export of mercury waste or those contaminated with it have been received within the framework of the Basel Convention.

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

If yes, if the information is available, how much waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds has been subjected to final disposal under the reporting period? Please specify the method of the final disposal operation/operations.

According to the preliminary review carried out through the registry of managers <http://rua-respel.ideam.gov.co/respelpr2009/mapa.php>, it is observed that in the country there are the following companies with environmental license for exploitation activities, treatment and final disposal of waste classified within category Y29 of Annex I of the Basel Convention.

Final disposal: EVAS
ENVIAMBIENTALES SAESP

Treatment:
OCADE SAS
INNOVACION AMBIENTAL – INNOVA SAESP

Treatment and use:
LITO SAS

Use:
QUIMETALES SAS
COMBUSTIBLES JUANCHITO SAS
TECNOLOGIAS ECOLOGICAS SAS –ECOTEC

Treatment and Final Disposal:
INGEAMBIENTE DEL CARIBE SAESP

The competent authorities for the evaluation and monitoring of said activities, in accordance with the provisions of numeral 10 of article 2.2.2.3.2.3 of Decree 1076 of 2015, are the regional autonomous corporations.

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

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▼ 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

Since 2015, Colombia, through the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, has been working on the formulation of a Comprehensive Strategy for the Management of Environmental Liabilities, whose doctrinal basis presented in the current National Development Plan establishes as Environmental Liability, the negative environmental impact, capable of being measured, quantified, located and geographically

delimited, which is identified after the completion of the activity, work or project that caused it, which generates an unacceptable level of risk to human health or the environment, in accordance with the provisions of the environmental authorities, and for whose control there is no current environmental instrument, the foregoing does not determine a forceful legal effect.

According to the previous rationale, there is a relationship between Environmental Liabilities and Contaminated Site, thus the strategy is considered the roadmap for the Management of Contaminated Sites, including activities such as the identification, confirmation and management of sites impacted by chemical contamination, which although they attack a general problem, they give guidelines for all types of compounds including mercury and the subsequent compounds that may be produced and/or derived from it.

This is how the strategy for the management of Contaminated Sites follows the four numerals dictated by the Minamata Convention to address the issue, as follows:

1. General Strategy: the general strategy for the adequate management of Contaminated Sites is being formulated, taking as a framework the strategy developed for Environmental Liabilities. Which is made up of various technical instruments such as: Sampling Protocol, Guide to Intervention Techniques, Guide to the follow-up and monitoring plan, among others.
2. Risk Assessment: The fundamental basis for the management of Contaminated Sites is risk analysis, understanding as management the activities related to the identification, confirmation, processing, prioritization, planning and execution of the intervention plan that will correct or mitigate any impact. environmental. In this way, the management of Contaminated Sites is based on the risk analysis that a certain substance represents for the environment or human health, considering the level of exposure and the toxicity and/or danger of the compound.
3. Methods and criteria: The formulated strategy is in line with the guidelines on the management of contaminated sites issued by the agreement in the document: "GUIDANCE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CONTAMINATED SITES".
4. Management: We have been working on the technical formulation of a national regulation that establishes the guidelines for the identification, confirmation, processing, prioritization, planning and execution of the intervention plan that will correct or mitigate any environmental impact in a Contaminated Site.

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

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▼ 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

– Colombia, through different national entities, has been making efforts for the internal implementation of the Convention. In this sense, we highlight that the Ministry of Mines and Energy has provided resources to develop projects focused on the elimination of mercury, as shown in the following table:

PROJECT: Implementation of the sectoral strategic plan for the elimination of the use of mercury from the activity mining in the national territory

2017 Sum of Value Used \$5,101,989,184

2018 Sum of Value Used \$6,096,454,062

PROJECT: Implementation of actions for the adoption of cleaner production practices in the mining population of the country

2019 Sum of Value Used 681,156,181

Observation: The indicated values correspond to the closing date of December 31 of each term.

Within the aforementioned resources, resources have been designated for the hiring of professionals who carry out the follow-up, monitoring and control of the Single National Mercury Plan, as shown in the following table:

2017 2 Professionals worth \$100,943,333

2018 2 Professionals worth \$92,940,907

2019 5 Professionals worth \$202,780,000

2020 2 Professionals worth \$177,116,667

On the other hand, the Ministry of Labor, which administers the Occupational Risk Fund, has the purpose of those described in Art. 12 of Law 1562 of 2012 and through which it is possible to apply the agreement. Likewise, each of the Entities in the labor sector have their own resources to comply with the obligations within the framework of their powers.

In addition, the Ministry of Transport has provided resources during the year 2020 in order to carry out the diagnosis of information related to the inspection, surveillance, control and monitoring of risk management associated with the use of chemical substances from the transport sector, which involves mercury as a dangerous commodity.

COMPONENTS: Implement and socialize guidelines for the inspection, surveillance, control and monitoring of risk management associated with the use of chemical substances from the transportation sector.

CO-FINANCING IN KIND COP (\$) – 2020 \$15,000,000

TOTAL \$15,000,000

On the other hand, the National Apprenticeship Service, SENA, has taken measures by providing resources for the creation of training programs related to the elimination of the use of mercury. Since the ratification of the Minamata Convention, 5 complementary programs have been developed with a unit cost of \$19,822,147 (prepared in 4 weeks each), and a total of \$99,110,733 for the 5 programs:

- PROMOTION OF ACTIONS TO MITIGATE IMPACT AND ELIMINATE THE USE OF MERCURY.
- PROMOTION OF ACTIONS TO MITIGATE IMPACT AND ELIMINATE THE USE OF MERCURY (VIRTUAL).
- TRAINER IN SAFETY AND HEALTH IN UNDERGROUND MINING WORK

- ENTREPRENEUR IN CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF SUSTAINABLE GOLD MINING.
- BENEFIT OF MINERALS.

In the case of the Ministry of the Environment, resources have been appropriated for the hiring of personnel in charge of implementing the Agreement, as specified below:

Year Professionals VALUE (\$)

2020 2 173,970,000

2019 3 209,492,548

2018 2 190,750,000

2017 1 101,859,986

Total 10,676,072,534

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, with the purpose of meeting the commitments framed in Law 1658 of 2013 and the Single National Mercury Plan, participated, supported and managed the actions required for this purpose, with the professional contribution, as part of the activities of each of the areas:

– Vice Ministry of Foreign Trade – Directorate of Foreign Trade – DCE. The Deputy Director of Design and Operations Administration of the DCE, the Coordinator of the Foreign Trade Operations Design Group, the Coordinator of the VUCE Group and a support professional for the management of this process.

– Vice Ministry of Business Development – Directorate of Productivity and Competitiveness – DPC. One (1) advisor from the DPC and a support professional for the management of this process.

This work team attended meetings, presented proposals and worked together to meet the entity's commitments in relation to mercury.

Please provide comments, if any.

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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

Colombia, as a developing country and as it is not a donor country, does not contribute to the mechanism for facilitating financial resources, since, as established in paragraph 5 of article 13, this mechanism is aimed at supporting the Parties that are developing countries (including Colombia) and the Parties with economies in transition in the performance of their obligations under this Convention.

Please provide comments, if any.

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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

Colombia, as a developing country and as it is not a donor country, does not contribute to the mechanism for facilitating financial resources, since, as established in paragraph 5 of article 13, this mechanism is aimed at supporting the Parties that are developing countries (including Colombia) and the Parties with economies in transition in the performance of their obligations under this Convention.

Please provide comments, if any.

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

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▼ 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

In the binational agendas with Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, informal exchanges have been carried out on national regulations for the implementation of the Convention, socialization from experiences on advances of the Minamata Convention and process of technology transfer to mining without the use of mercury.

Within the framework of the Andean Illegal Mining Committee (CAMI) there is a dialogue on contributions at the State level to collaborate with the countries of the region on the illegal trafficking of minerals and, especially, with that related to the illegal trafficking of Mercury (Hg). Likewise, work has been done on international cooperation projects with countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Norway and the European Union, among others, aimed at strengthening capacities in terms of training, technology and logistics that make it possible to structurally affect illegal mining, making special emphasis on criminal finance, organized armed groups and corruption.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

- Support has been received from the USAID "Legal Gold" Project for mining legalization, technology transfer for the non-use of mercury, mercury monitoring and recovery of gold mining areas with the presence of mercury, from the US Department of State for mercury in tailings
- "Comunica" project of the Canadian Cooperation to socialize and guide the management of mercury in gold mining areas.

Responsible Gold Project of the Government of Switzerland

Cooperation of the European Union and UNIDO for small miners in Chocó

- Participation in groups of experts of the Minamata Convention on mercury thresholds in waste from small-scale and subsistence gold mining, and in the review of the Guide for Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Minamata Convention.

- Inter-administrative Cooperation Agreement No. 273 of 2015 Entered into the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Labor, the National Apprenticeship Service SENA, the National Mining Agency, and Positiva Compañía de Seguros SA, whose objective is to combine technical and Administrative to support and strengthen the execution of the National Mining Safety Policy Formulated and adopted by the Ministry of Mines and Energy.

- Cooperation Agreement No. 000364 of October 4, 2016, BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND THE IBERO-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY - OISS for the preparation of the guide and primer for the implementation of the SG-SST.

- "Somos Tesoro" project, financed by the United States Department of Labor; the Alliance for Responsible Mining and the Ministry of Labor, where in 2017 the document "Technical guide for the implementation of the SG-SST for small-scale mining" was prepared and the guide for responsible management and alternatives for the elimination of mercury in working environments in the mining sector. An agreement was signed with the Alliance for Responsible Mining whose objective is to transform artisanal and small-scale mining into a socially and environmentally responsible activity that improves the quality of life of artisanal miners and their environment.

- Creation of a mercury sector board. With the purpose of joining forces among the entities of the sector to comply with the 2018-2013 mercury sector plan, the Single National Mercury Plan and the Minamata Convention.

- Minenergía, Mintrabajo, the National Mining Agency, SENA and the ARL Positiva signed Agreement 273 of 2015 since 2015, the purpose of which is to "Join technical and administrative efforts to support and strengthen the execution of the National Security Policy Mining formulated and adopted by the Ministry of Mines and Energy".

- International Cooperation "Planet Gold" project - funds provided by the GEF: The project "Integrated Management for the Elimination of Mercury from Small-Scale Mining and Subsistence Mining in Colombia" aims to eliminate and/or avoid the use of 20 Tn Hg in the subsistence and small-scale mining sector, located in 11 municipalities in the departments of Antioquia, Bolívar, Cauca and Nariño, this project is valid for 5 years, starting actions in 2019.

- Within the framework of the cooperation that has been achieved with countries such as the United States, Norway and the European Union, the Specialized Directorate Against Human Rights Violations of the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation has gained access to training, and progress is being made in access and implementation of technological and logistical tools that allow remote monitoring of illegal mining and intervention on the ground.

Please provide comments, if any.

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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

Within the framework of the exchange of experiences with Ecuador and Peru, the technical experience of developing small-scale mining without the use of mercury has been shared, within the framework of Law 1658 of 2013, which in Colombia prohibited the use of mercury in mining. of gold, as of July 15, 2018

Likewise, within the strategies implemented by the Government, framed in the Sectorial Strategic Plan for 2016, it was already fully executed, several technological alternatives were proposed:

- Guides that contain the metallurgical route for 10 zones with gold deposits: 10 methodological guides have been made for the productive improvement of gold benefit without the use of mercury, in the departments of Huila, Nariño, Caldas, Cauca, Antioquia, Bolívar and Córdoba, aimed at scientific research, technological development and innovation of production processes to increase productivity and competitiveness, contributing to the solution of the country's need to promote technological alternatives for cleaner production for gold benefit processes, without the use of mercury.

- Gold recovery alternatives for subsistence miners: Alluvial deposits were characterized in order to generate guidelines for gold recovery.

- With regard to subsistence miners, support, training and technical-practical assistance have been provided to 42,678 legal subsistence miners located in 125 municipalities of 14 gold-producing departments, in order to achieve the implementation of good extraction practices, clean production and efficiency in the benefit of gold.

- Seventy-six (76) plants were intervened, located in 35 municipalities of 9 main gold-producing departments, which work protected by legal permits. This activity benefited 1,312 miners who were trained in technology transfers.

- Alternatives for Final Disposal of Tailings: A research project was developed with the National University of Colombia – Grupo CIMEX, to propose alternatives for the recovery of mercury in contaminated tailings, as well as alternatives for its final disposal, based on technical criteria and characterization of each tailings. For this, tailings from 14 gold processing units were sampled in 14 municipalities of the Departments of Antioquia, Bolívar, Cauca and Nariño.
- International Cooperation “Planet Gold” project – funds provided by the GEF: The project “Integrated Management for the Elimination of Mercury from Small-Scale Mining and Subsistence Mining in Colombia” aims to eliminate and/or avoid the use of 20 Tn Hg in the subsistence and small-scale mining sector, located in 11 municipalities in the departments of Antioquia, Bolívar, Cauca and Nariño, this project is valid for 5 years, starting actions in 2019.
- With the support of SENA, 320 small legal miners and subsistence miners were trained through a complementary 360-hour course: “Construction, operation and maintenance of gold ore processing equipment with cleaner production techniques” in 6 departments producers of gold: Antioquia, Bolívar, Cauca, Nariño, Santander and Caldas, which seeks to strengthen the technical capacities of miners.

The Ministry of Health participated in the COL 98842 project entitled “Reduction of releases of unintentional POPs and mercury from hospital waste management, WEEE, scrap metal processing and biomass burning”. This project is financed through a grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented in Colombia by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection. In the area of transfer and dissemination of environmentally sound alternative technologies, through this project, campaigns were carried out to replace mercury thermometers in Health Service Providers Institutions (IPS). Digital thermometers were delivered and mercury thermometers were collected for proper management. Other products of this project were: 1. A diagnosis of the use of mercury-containing products in the health sector, where imports of medical devices such as thermometers, blood pressure monitors and dental amalgams were analysed, as well as the manufacture of dental amalgams in Colombia. 2. An inventory of the use of mercury-containing products in Health Service Provider Institutions (IPS) and visits were made to some IPS to collect information on the use and management of mercury-containing products and their waste. 3. A guide for the substitution of mercury-containing products in IPS, which was reviewed and piloted by some IPS at the national level.

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

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▼ 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.

To address mercury management, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection signed the Single National Mercury Plan (PUNHg) signed in August 2018, in compliance with article 8 of Law 1658 of 2013 “By means of which provisions are established For the commercialization and use of mercury in the different industrial activities of the country, requirements and incentives are established for its reduction and elimination and other provisions are dictated. The general objective of the plan aims to achieve the reduction and progressive elimination of the use of mercury throughout the national territory, in order to protect human health and preserve renewable natural resources and the environment, for which it was agreed to work on three programs that aim at institutional strengthening, management and monitoring, and evaluation of the plan.

In accordance with the PUNHg, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection also prepared and published the mercury plan for the health sector in September 2018 and has been working on its implementation, promoting activities aimed at providing information to the public, among others, Actions such as:

- a. Socialization of the Mercury Plan for the Health Sector (PHgSS) in September 2018. The document was previously agreed with the entities of the health sector at the national level and socialized with the entities at the territorial level.
- b. Formation and development of meetings of the sector table to address mercury management and give an account of the progress report on the implementation of the sector plan.
- c. Organization of the Forum: “Policies and strategies to reduce the use of products with mercury in the health sector with an emphasis on dental amalgam within the framework of the Minamata Convention”, in the month of August 2019.
- d. As part of the exercise of epidemiological surveillance and contribution to the characterization and identification of populations at risk and vulnerable, the National Institute of Health consolidates the report on the behavior of the notification of cases of acute mercury poisoning in Colombia. To date, the report is updated for the period from 2007 to 2020.
- e. Surveillance report on mercury levels in food, with emphasis on the surveillance of fishery products for the year 2019 and report on the analysis of the results of the National Subsectoral Plans for Surveillance and Control of Mercury Residues in Food (PSVCR) and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures applied in 2019.
- f. Within the framework of the COL 98842 project entitled “Reduction of unintentional POPs and mercury releases from hospital waste management, WEEE, metal scrap processing and biomass burning”, awareness campaigns were carried out on the non-use of mercury-containing products in homes, through the Territorial Health Directorates and their strategies for healthy environments and the Expanded Program on Immunization – EPI Additionally, within the framework of the substitution campaigns, digital thermometers were delivered and mercury

thermometers to be properly managed Forums, seminars and workshops open to the general public were also held, where health and environmental risk communication was carried out due to inadequate management of products with added mercury.
g. Additionally, information related to mercury has been published on the website of the Ministry of Health and entities linked to the health sector, as follows:

- ABC mining. Available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/abc-mineria.pdf>
- Flipchart recommendations for the prevention of exposure to mercury in vulnerable communities from Colombia. Available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/recomendaciones-prevencion-mercurio-colombia.pdf>
- Single National Mercury Plan, 2018 version – PUNHg. Available at the link: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/plan-unico-mercurio.pdf>
- Mercury Plan for the Health Sector – PHgSS. Available at the link: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/plan-mercurio-sactor-salud-b.pdf>
- Report of studies carried out in related to mercury exposure. Available at the link: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/informe-de-estudios-hg.pdf>
- Final Report on Agreement 407. Epidemiological evaluation of the health effects of occupational and environmental exposure to mercury in the departments of Chocó, Nariño and Vaupés, Colombia, 2016. Available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDI/VS/ED/GCFI/mercury-database.zip>
- IQEN vol. 21 2016 Dinner. National Epidemiologic Quarterly Report (IQEN). Epidemiological surveillance and health impact assessment due to occupational and environmental exposure to mercury in the departments of the Mojana area, Colombia, 2014 – 2015. October 15, 2016. Available at: <https://www.ins.gov.co/buscador-events/IQEN/IQEN%20vol%2021%202016%20num%2019.pdf>
- Final Report Mojana 2017. Corresponds to the final report of the study entitled "Epidemiological Surveillance and Health Impact Assessment from Occupational and Environmental Mercury Exposure." in the departments of the Mojana area – Colombia, August
- IQEN Mercury Chocó. National Epidemiological Fortnightly Report (IQEN) corresponding to the results of the study on occupational and environmental exposure to mercury in the department of Chocó, Colombia, 2015–2016. Available at: <https://www.ins.gov.co/buscador-eventos/IQEN/IQEN%20vol%2021%202016%20num%2011.pdf>
- Mercury and lead prevalence study in the general population of Bogotá 2012/2013 . Published in the journal of Public Health of the National University Rev. Public Health, Volume 16, Number 4, p. 621–628, 2014. Electronic ISSN 2539–3596. Printed ISSN 0124–0064. Available at: <https://revistas.unal.edu.co/index.php/revsaludpublica/article/view/38675>
- National Subsectoral Plan for Surveillance and Control of total Mercury in canned tuna for the period 2018–2019. Available at: https://www.invima.gov.co/images/pdf/inspeccion_y_vigilancia/direccion-alimentos/subsectoriales/DOCUMENTO-TECNICO-PLAN-MERCURIO-ATUN-2018-2019.pdf
- Protocol called "Evaluation of the degree of contamination by mercury and other toxic substances, and its effects on human health in the populations of the Atrato river basin, as a result of mining activities", published on the MSPS website. Available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/protocolo-sentencia-t622-vcolciencias.pdf>
- Children and adolescents environmentally exposed to mercury in different municipalities of Colombia.; 51(1): 43–52. doi: 10.18273/revsal.v51n1-2019005. Published in the Health Magazine of the Industrial University of Santander. Available at: <https://revistas.uis.edu.co/index.php/revistasaluduis/article/view/9214/9044>
- Epidemiological evaluation of the health effects of occupational and environmental exposure to mercury in the departments of Chocó, Nariño and Vaupés, Colombia, I-ISSN 2590–7379 (Electronic) Volume 39, Supplement No. 3 – November 2019. Published in Biomédica. Available at: file:///C:/Users/GONZALEZ/Documents/YADY/MIN_SALUD/CURSO%20MERCURIO%20OMS%202021/UNIDAD%202.%20TOXICOLOGIA%20DEL%20HG/171-63-PB.pdf

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.

In relation to the problem of health effects, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the entities linked to the health sector, permanently carry out technical assistance actions to territorial health entities in matters of awareness, dissemination and training, focused on the identification and risk reduction, protection of human health, toxicological aspects of mercury, diagnosis, treatment and health care flow charts for people affected by exposure to mercury. In this regard, the Ministry has designed flowcharts, which serve as a guide and provide guidance on the actions to be taken for the care of people who are exposed to mercury. However, these flow charts are not a substitute for medical judgment. The Ministry of Health guidelines for the management of toxicological emergencies for 2017 have also been established, where there is a chapter for the care and management of patients poisoned by mercury. Similarly, there is the Public Health Surveillance protocol for Poisoning by Chemical Substances, to make possible the notification of acute mercury poisoning, which was prepared by the National Institute of Health. In addition, the Colombian Ministry of Health has been involved in research studies aimed at carrying out different approaches to assessing health risks due to environmental exposure to mercury and other contaminants associated with illegal mineral exploitation activities, mainly gold. Currently, work continues on the development of studies that allow contributing to the characterization of this problem of interest in public health, with emphasis on areas where there is suspicion or evidence of the development of illegal gold exploitation activities. Among the studies carried out or in progress, the following stand out:

- a. Year 2016. Study completed. Ministry of Health and Social Protection – National Institute of Health – University of Córdoba. Inter-administrative agreement No. 407 – 2016. Epidemiological evaluation of the health effects of occupational and environmental exposure to mercury in the departments of Chocó, Nariño and Vaupés, Colombia, 2016.
- b. Year of 2017. Study finished. National Institute of Health. Epidemiological surveillance and evaluation of the health impact due to occupational and environmental exposure to mercury in the departments of the Mojana area – Colombia 2017.
- c. Year 2018. Study completed in 2019. Carried out within the framework of compliance with the precautionary protection measures for the Awá indigenous community of the Reservation Hojal la Turbia. Study entitled: "Possible health impacts on the Awá indigenous community due to illegal mining activities and spraying with glyphosate."
- d. Year 2019. Study in progress within the framework of ruling T–622 of 2016, called: "Assess the degree of contamination by mercury and other toxic substances, and its impact on the human health of the populations of the Atrato river basin, consequence of mining activities. Execution of the study by the University of Córdoba, within the framework of compliance with the eighth order of Judgment T622 Río Atrato.
- and. Year 2019. Study completed in 2021. Carried out within the framework of compliance with the precautionary protection measures on the community of the Zanjón de Garrapatero collective territory (Cauca). Study called: "Evaluation of the effects on health in the vulnerable population of the Zanjón de Garrapatero collective territory exposed to polluting discharges due to mining exploitation". Study carried out by the University of Cartagena within the framework of Interlocutory Order No. 022 of 2018.

F. Year 2019. Start of the study within the framework of compliance with the precautionary protection measures on the community of the Aires de Garrapatero collective territory, the Cauca River Basin and the Teta Mazamorrero River Micro-basin – Cauca. Study entitled: "Evaluation of the health effects of the vulnerable population of the Aires de Garrapatero collective territory, the Cauca River basin and the Teta Mazamorrero River micro-basin-exposed to polluting discharges due to mining exploitation". Auto 275 of 2018 and 050 of 2019. Study in progress by the University of Cartagena.

In relation to the effects on health derived from gold mining, the actions of this Ministry are mainly oriented towards: 1) Strengthening national and territorial intersectoral management to address the problem in an articulated manner and achieve better results in the prevention and control of illegal mining; 2) Strengthening the capacities of professionals in the health sector for the diagnosis and treatment of people with health effects due to mercury and mining in general; 3) Actions aimed at favoring the availability of treatment according to the diagnosis of the identified cases; 4) Implementation of the Single National Plan for Mercury and the Sectoral Plan for Mercury; and, 5) Community-oriented promotion and prevention strategies with a differential approach.

Other activities that have been developed and that aim to protect human health are:

as well as the manufacture of dental amalgams in Colombia. 2. An inventory of the use of products with mercury in Health Service Provider Institutions-IPS and visits were made to some IPS to collect information on the use and management of products with mercury and their residues.

3. A guide for the substitution of products with mercury in the IPS, which was reviewed and piloted by some IPS at the national level.

b) Participation in the PLANET GOLD Colombia intersectoral project "Integrated Management of Mercury in Small-Scale Mining and Subsistence Mining in Colombia". This project is financed through a grant from the Global Fund for the Global Environment – GEF and is being implemented in Colombia by the United Nations Program – UNDP together with the Ministries of Mines and Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development and Health and Social Protection. Specifically, the project will support the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in the development of Comprehensive Health Care Routes – for the care of individuals, families and communities at risk or with health alterations due to exposure to mercury, this route will include activities prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health impacts (including gender aspects). To date, the terms of reference for the contracting of the preparation phase of the RIAS have been consolidated.

c) Through the Ten-Year Public Health Plan, national goals and actions have been defined aimed at increasing coverage of prevention and early detection of non-communicable diseases with emphasis on changes in oral health, which directly contributes to the decrease of the use of dental amalgams.

d) Preparation and publication of the document called: "Guidelines for the progressive elimination of amalgam". Available at:

<https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/ENT/uso-controlado-amalgama.pdf>

e) The Clinical Practice Guideline for the diagnosis and treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease has been published

(http://gpc.minsalud.gov.co/gpc_sites/Repositorio/Otros_conv/GPC_e_renal/gpc_e_renal_completa.aspx). This guide applies to the care of people with this pathology established as a result of exposure to mercury.

f) There are guidelines for the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

g) There is a strategy that helps to characterize the working conditions and health conditions of informal workers.

h) There are national guidelines for the promotion of Healthy Environments. In particular, it has a healthy work environment strategy, with an emphasis on informality. Document available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/estrategia-entorno-laboral-informal-2019.pdf>

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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

• Within the Andean Community – CAN, between Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, the Mercury Observatory was created and regulated through Decision 844 of 2019

• Within the National Intersectoral Technical Commission for Environmental Health – CONASA, made up of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Social Protection, Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development, Ministry of Transport, the National Planning Department, the Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation – Colciencias, now the Ministry of Science, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies, the National Institute for the Surveillance of Medicines and Food, the National Institute of Health and the Colombian Agricultural Institute or its delegate; the mercury sub-board was created, within the chemical substances board. This sub-board is made up of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Ministries of Environment and Sustainable Development, Health and Social Protection, Labour, Agriculture and Rural Development, Transport and Commerce, Industry and Tourism, and National Defence, in which legal information has been exchanged on the use, importation, production, commercialisation, handling, transport, storage or final disposal and health effects, and other information related to transport, environment, mining and health.

• The exchange of information is also specified through the review and preparation of technical documents and the progress report of the actions developed within the framework of the Convention through the facilitation of the Colombian Foreign Ministry, the entity in charge of coordinating at the national level for promote the exchange of information within the framework of the Convention.

• In addition, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism has been part of the working group for the creation of the Andean Mercury Observatory and the structuring of the Operating Regulations of the Observatory, through which the exchange of information regarding mercury is regulated. with the CAN countries.

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▼ 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

In the GEF Cooperation project, PlanetGOLD: Integrated management of mercury in the subsistence and small-scale mining sector in Colombia, which is executed with GEF resources, which runs from 2019 to 2023, socialization and awareness are considered about mercury.

Under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the virtual course "Environmentally sound management of mercury in Colombia" was held within the framework of Project COL/98842-94749 "Reduction of Unintentional POPs and Mercury Releases from Environmental Management. Hospital Waste, WEEE, Metal Scrap Processing and Biomass Burning".

Also from the Ministry of Mines and Energy within the framework of the Sectoral Strategic Plan for 2016, which has already been fully executed. Several strategies have been implemented:

- Carrying out awareness workshops for subsistence miners and processing plant operators within the framework of the intervention carried out in these two populations.
 - Design and implementation of a media plan to disseminate actions aimed at eliminating the use of mercury.
 - Fifteen (15) technology dissemination events were held in partnership with SENA, aimed at municipal authorities, police, governorates, regional autonomous corporations and interest groups in 10 departments, where training was provided on skills, progress in the implementation of the plan sector strategy, technical mining and environmental aspects associated with the use of mercury. In total there are 405 contractors and local authority officials certified by SENA
- From the labor sector, the "Technical Guide for the implementation of the SG-SST for small mining" was prepared
<https://www.mintrabajo.gov.co/documents/20147/648769/09-15-2017+Implemetaci%C3%B3n+del+SG-SST+DIGITAL.pdf> *There was participation in the review of the "Guide for responsible management and alternatives for the elimination of mercury in work environments in the mining sector". (available at) <http://www.responsablemines.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/06-28-2017-Gu%C3%ADa-para-el-manejo-responsable-del-mercurio-V9.pdf>
- Publication Mercury Sector Plan 2018 – 2023 <https://www.mintrabajo.gov.co/documents/20147/51963/Plan+Mercurio+Sector+trabajo+2018-2023.pdf/045dde8a-db93-16fa-be9d-f383e13cf2f0?t=1588448373697>
 - Through the SENA, The following training spaces have been created:
 - ❖ Complementary virtual course in promoting actions to mitigate impacts and eliminate the use of mercury.
 - ❖ Certification in promoting actions to mitigate impacts and eliminate the use of mercury.
 - Training "Mercury poisoning in work environments" Proceedings <https://bit.ly/3ijMLTX>. Recording <https://bit.ly/2VKt85a>
 - Training "Mitigation of risks derived from mercury" Reports <https://bit.ly/3iErXNr>. Recording <https://bit.ly/3xBuTP3>
- The Ministry of Transportation is in the process of structuring a Disclosure Plan for the Transportation Sector that allows the public to know everything related to mercury and its transportation throughout the country. In this plan, measures will be structured to promote and facilitate disclosure to the public of the types of information listed in paragraph 1 of article 18; Likewise, the Sectoral Action Plan for Mercury in the Transportation Sector is being reviewed and updated, in which information is available to the public about those listed in paragraph 1 of article 18. As it is a process that is barely being structured, it has not yet measures are effective.

Related information has been published on the website of the Ministry of Health and entities linked to the health sector, as follows:

- ABC mining. Available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/abc-mineria.pdf>
- Flipchart recommendations for the prevention of exposure to mercury in vulnerable communities from Colombia. Available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/recomendaciones-prevencion-mercurio-colombia.pdf>
- Single National Mercury Plan, 2018 version – PUNHg. Available at the link: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/plan-unico-mercurio.pdf>
- Mercury Plan for the Health Sector – PHgSS. Available at the link: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/plan-mercurio-sactor-salud-b.pdf>
- Report of studies carried out in related to mercury exposure. Available at the link: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/informe-de-estudios-hg.pdf>
- Final Report on Agreement 407. Epidemiological evaluation of the health effects of occupational and environmental exposure to mercury in the departments of Chocó, Nariño and Vaupés, Colombia, 2016. Available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDI/VS/ED/GCFI/mercury-database.zip>
- IQEN vol. 21 2016 Dinner. National Epidemiologic Quarterly Report (IQEN). Epidemiological surveillance and health impact assessment due to occupational and environmental exposure to mercury in the departments of the Mojana area, Colombia, 2014 – 2015. October 15, 2016. Available at: <https://www.ins.gov.co/buscador-eventos/IQEN/IQEN%20vol%2021%202016%20num%2019.pdf>
- Final Report Mojana 2017. Corresponds to the final report of the study entitled "Epidemiological Surveillance and Health Impact Assessment from Occupational and Environmental Mercury Exposure." in the departments of the Mojana area – Colombia, August
- IQEN Mercury Chocó. National Epidemiological Fortnightly Report (IQEN) corresponding to the results of the study on occupational and environmental exposure to mercury in the department of Chocó, Colombia, 2015–2016. Available at: <https://www.ins.gov.co/buscador-eventos/IQEN/IQEN%20vol%2021%202016%20num%2011.pdf>
- Mercury and lead prevalence study in the general population of Bogotá 2012/2013. Published in the journal of Public Health of the National University Rev. Public Health, Volume 16, Number 4, p. 621–628, 2014. Electronic ISSN 2539–3596. Printed ISSN 0124–0064. Available at: <https://revistas.unal.edu.co/index.php/revsaludpublica/article/view/38675>
- National Subsectoral Plan for Surveillance and Control of total Mercury in canned tuna for the period 2018–2019. Available at: https://www.invima.gov.co/images/pdf/inspeccion_y_vigilancia/direccion-alimentos/subsectoriales/DOCUMENTO-TECNICO-PLAN-MERCURIO-ATUN-2018-2019.pdf
- Protocol called "Evaluation of the degree of contamination by mercury and other toxic substances, and its effects on human health in the populations of the Atrato river basin, as a result of mining activities", published on the MSPS website. Available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/protocolo-sentencia-t622-vcolciencias.pdf>
- Children and adolescents environmentally exposed to mercury in different municipalities of Colombia.; 51(1): 43–52. doi: 10.18273/revsal.v51n1-2019005. Published in the Health Magazine of the Industrial University of Santander. Available at: <https://revistas.uis.edu.co/index.php/revistasaluduis/article/view/9214/9044>
- Epidemiological evaluation of the health effects of occupational and environmental exposure to mercury in the departments of Chocó, Nariño and Vaupés, Colombia, I-ISSN 2590–7379 (Electronic) Volume 39, Supplement No. 3 – November 2019. Published in Biomédica. Available at:

- Clinical Practice Guide for the diagnosis and treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease (http://gpc.minsalud.gov.co/gpc_sites/Repositorio/Otros_conv/GPC_e_renal/gpc_e_renal_completa.aspx). This guide applies to the care of people with this pathology established as a result of exposure to mercury.
- National guidelines for the promotion of Healthy Environments. In particular, it has a healthy work environment strategy, with an emphasis on informality. Document available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/estrategia-entorno-laboral-informal-2019.pdf>
- There is a guideline for the development of Promotion and Prevention actions in informal economic activities where Lead, Mercury and Asbestos are used, handled and stored. Available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/VS/PP/SA/13lineamiento-pyp-pb-hg-asbesto.pdf>

The Ministry of National Education –MEN– addresses the issue from the National Environmental Education Policy and has guided the educational sector so that from a context reading they identify the environmental problems that must be dealt with in the school, among which is the use mercury, climate change, comprehensive solid waste management, care and preservation of moors and water resources, among other issues. This recognition and prioritization is done by each educational establishment from the curricular autonomy granted by the General Education Law of Colombia, Law 115 of 1994. This work has been carried out by the Ministry from the strategy of "The environmental dimension in formal education – Projects School Environmental –PRAES–".

Since 2019, the Ministry of National Education has been participating and working in two intersectoral spaces where the issue of protection, safeguarding of human health and preservation of renewable natural resources and the mercury-free environment is addressed.

The first scenario is the National Intersectoral Technical Commission for Environmental Health (CONASA), particularly in the Mercury Sub-Board, where it has participated in the development of the knowledge generation strategy: which proposes activities aimed at the design, promotion and implementation of programmes to raise awareness, dissemination, training, education and exchange of experiences, around the achievement of the reduction and elimination of mercury, including information regarding the risks and effects on human health. In this regard, it was explained that it is not within the competence of the MEN to design programmes for awareness-raising, dissemination, training, coaching and exchange of experiences, for all audiences as proposed in the roundtable, however, it was proposed to invite the environmental education team of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, so that the two entities can provide guidance from the framework of the National Environmental Education Policy, explaining how the strategy of knowledge generation could be articulated with existing environmental education strategies in the formal and informal sectors.

The second space has been through the intersectoral articulation that has been developing since 2015 with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, through which it is planned to strengthen the School Environmental Projects –PRAE– and the Interinstitutional Technical Committees of Environmental Education –CIDEAS– departmental and municipal, to guide colleges, schools and organizations with competence in the subject in the recognition of mercury in environmental problems.

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

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▼ 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

The following studies have been carried out by the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Colombia:

- Effects of the use of mercury on water, soil, air and biota. In 2015, the study of the effects generated on water, soil, air and biota by the gold benefit processes and the generation of efficient modules for the use of water in gold recovery operations was carried out. In said study, conclusions were generated such as the increase in the toxicity of mercury by increasing its bioavailability as it moves away from the benefit processes.
- Mercury measurement in air and soil. Mercury measurements were made in areas associated with mining activities in 2017, specifically in the air and soil matrices in 60 mining-influenced municipalities in 10 gold-producing departments (Antioquia, Bolívar, Caldas, Cauca, Chocó, Córdoba, Huila, Nariño, Risaralda, Tolima and the Mojana area).
- The study of the mercury chain in Colombia was carried out, through which an estimated consumption of 193 tons of mercury per year was identified, of which 105 tons were used in legal activities and 88 tons in illegal activities, where Antioquia is the Department with the highest annual consumption that reaches 129.2 tons of the 193 tons quantified. This department is succeeded by Chocó, Bolívar, Córdoba, Caldas, Cauca and Nariño.
- Electrochemistry. Since 2017, the implementation of leaching and electrochemical technologies has been investigated, which do not require the use of mercury or cyanide in the benefit process. This technology is suitable for miners who obtain gold from deposits with high sulfide content. The pilot of this technology was launched at the Constancia plant located in the municipality of Anorí in the Department of Antioquia.

The Ministry of Transport, in compliance with the action plan of CONPES 3868 – Risk management policy associated with the use of chemical substances, has been preparing since 2020 a diagnosis of the current situation and a baseline of information related in general to the transport of dangerous goods that includes hazardous chemicals (including mercury) at the national level and mainly road and river transport modes. In this way, firstly, the manuals of processes, procedures or management instructions of the national entities in charge of the inspection, surveillance and control of the transport sector, such as the Delegation of Transit and Automotive Land Transport of the Supertransporte and the Transit and Transport Directorate of the National Police (DITRA) have been compiled and analysed, as well as the reports with results or statistics of this management regarding the transport of dangerous goods. Secondly, an inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial technical roundtable is being formed to evaluate the processes of transport of chemical substances and dangerous goods in the transport sector in order to socialise and complement the diagnosis of the processes of inspection, monitoring and control of the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and river and based on this diagnosis, to discuss and define guidelines to improve risk management associated with the transport of dangerous goods.

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection and its affiliated entities have been involved in research studies aimed at carrying out different approaches to assessing health risks due to environmental exposure to mercury and other contaminants associated with illegal mineral exploitation activities, mainly gold. Currently, work continues on the development of studies that allow contributing to the characterization of this problem of interest in public health, with emphasis on areas where there is suspicion or evidence of the development of illegal gold exploitation activities. Among the studies carried out or in progress, the following stand out:

- Year 2017. Study completed. National Institute of Health. Epidemiological surveillance and evaluation of the health impact due to occupational and environmental exposure to mercury in the departments of the Mojana area – Colombia 2017.
- Year 2018. Study completed in 2019. Carried out within the framework of compliance with precautionary protection measures on the Awá indigenous community of the Reservation Hojalá Turbia. Study entitled: "Possible health impacts on the Awá indigenous community due to illegal mining activities and spraying with glyphosate."
- Year 2019. Study in progress within the framework of ruling T-622 of 2016, called: "Assess the degree of contamination by mercury and other toxic substances, and its impact on the human health of the populations of the Atrato river basin as a result of mining activities. Execution of the study by the University of Córdoba, within the framework of compliance with the eighth order of Judgment T622 Río Atrato.
- Year 2019. Study completed in 2021. Carried out within the framework of compliance with precautionary protection measures for the community of the Zanjón de Garrapatero collective territory (Cauca). Study called: "Evaluation of the effects on health in the vulnerable population of the Zanjón de Garrapatero collective territory exposed to polluting discharges due to mining exploitation". Study carried out by the University of Cartagena within the framework of Interlocutory Order No. 022 of 2018.
- Year 2019. Start of the study within the framework of compliance with the precautionary protection measures on the community of the Aires de Garrapatero collective territory, the Cauca River Basin and the Teta Mazamorrero River Micro-basin – Cauca. Study entitled: "Evaluation of the health effects of the vulnerable population of the Aires de Garrapatero collective territory, the Cauca River basin and the Teta Mazamorrero River micro-basin-exposed to polluting discharges due to mining exploitation". Auto 275 of 2018 and 050 of 2019. Study in progress by the University of Cartagena.
- Year 2019 – 2021. Mercury levels and related polymorphisms in adult patients with chronic kidney disease in Colombia, 2018 – National Institute of Health – INS. Completed study.
- Year 2020. Evaluation of exposure to mixtures of environmental contaminants and health effects in the rural population of three departments of Colombia, 2020. National Institute of Health – INS. Study in progress.

As part of the exercise of epidemiological surveillance and contribution to the characterization and identification of populations at risk and vulnerable, the National Institute of Health consolidates the report on the behavior of the notification of cases of acute mercury poisoning in Colombia. To date, the report is updated for the period from 2007 to 2020.

The monitoring report on the levels of mercury in food was carried out, with emphasis on the monitoring of fishery products for the year 2019 and the report on the analysis of the results of the Subsectoral National Plans for Surveillance and Control of Mercury Residues. Mercury in Food (PSVCR) and the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures applied in 2019.

A project aimed at replacing products with mercury in the health sector was also developed, in coordination with the Ministry of the Environment for Sustainable Development.

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▼ COMMENTS

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

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▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

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