

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY 2021

* Question 4.2 amended by Guinea-Bissau on 02 November 2022
* Part E of Article 11 amended by Guinea-Bissau on 17 December 2022



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REPORTING PERIOD:

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Guinea-Bissau

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

October 22, 2018

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

January 20, 2019

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Ministry of Environment and Biodiversity

Title of National Focal Point

Mr.

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

In Guinea-Bissau up to the present date, there are no primary mercury mining activities. Although according to the studies carried out, there are mining resources such as bauxite, phosphate and others but their extraction has not yet begun.

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.

The country does not produce mercury but it imports mercury equipment or compounds, there are also no mercury stocks.

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

Guinea-Bissau has never carried out any mercury export because no mercury production activity takes place in its national territory.

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

Guinea-Bissau does not allow mercury to be imported independently whether from the Party or not on its national territory, because the country does not have the necessary conditions to make a good management of mercury.

As there is no mercury mining and none currently planned, Guinea Bissau may need to do much more work in legislation, developing laws and regulations on mercury and ensuring that it has that the import and export comply with the consent modalities of the 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)

4.2. If yes (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4):

Has the party reported to the Conference of the Parties at the first opportunity a description of the measures or strategies implemented, including a quantification of the reductions achieved?

- ☐ Yes

☒ No

Has the party implemented measures or strategies to reduce the use of mercury in any products listed in Part I of Annex A for which a de minimis value has not yet been obtained?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Has the party considered additional measures to achieve further reductions?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

Guinea-Bissau has not yet implemented paragraph 2 of article 4, relating to the decision concerning the specific measure or strategy to reduce the use of mercury in the products listed in the first part of the Annex A. However, two bills are in progress:

- The Legal Regime for the Management of Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes; and
- Hospital Waste Management.

These bills regulate aspects related to chemicals, including mercury.

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.

The country carried out the Sensitization campaign at the Simão Mendes National Hospital on the impacts of mercury;

Carrying out information and awareness campaigns for the population and displaying images in public places on the impacts of mercury on the environment and human health.

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

Through the realization of the Awareness campaign at the Simão Mendes National Hospital on the impacts of mercury;

Training for agents of the General Inspectorate of the Environment on chemicals including mercury;

Carrying out information and public awareness campaigns;

The production of radio debates on mercury and its impacts;

Displays images on the risks associated with the poor management of mercury and its impacts on health and the environment.

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

There is a need for a thorough examination of the measures to be taken to comply with the obligation in paragraph 1 of this article 4 with regard to the prohibition of the manufacture, import and export of products containing mercury added. listed in Annex A Part I. All of this will need to be accompanied by clear national policies.

▼ 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

Please explain

There is a new cement production facility, identified as an infrastructure with potential emissions to the atmosphere.

No work is done to know the use of mercury or mercury compounds in their manufacturing processes. The country plans to develop regulations on this sector and to take urgent measures to comply with the obligations of the Convention.

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

Any manufacturing process using mercury or mercury compounds must be regulated and controlled by the competent authorities and put in place effective measures.

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

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

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

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

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

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

The government of Guinea-Bissau has ratified other International Conventions on chemicals, it is a full member of UEMOA and CILSS and it is a signatory to the various documents of these sub-regional organizations in order to minimize the risks of chemical products.

Please provide information

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

The country is always open and expresses its interest in cooperating with partners, other countries, subregional organizations, NGOs and Grassroots Associations to achieve the objectives of article 7. In addition, the country is determined to let the Secretariat of all activities in which mercury is used carried out in its territory that may endanger the environment and human health.

▼ 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

Waste incineration facilities

There are small waste incineration plants, especially in hospitals. One of the measures taken is the construction of the hospital waste treatment center and the strengthening of the capacity of doctors, nurses and health technicians in the management of hospital waste.

- ☒ Cement clinker production facilities

Cement clinker production facilities

There is a new and unique cement production facility that has just been installed in the country and their production started in 2020 and we have not yet done the inventory in order to know their emission.

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

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

Consider developing regulations on power plants
Control the import of coal for power plants Monitor
actions taken

Progress

With the implementation of effective measures, there will certainly be progress in this sector by reducing emissions.

▼ 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

The biomedical waste treatment center is installed and equipped with materials at the Simao Mendes National Hospital, in order to contribute to the management and do the possible control and reduce emissions.

Change methods that have hazardous environmental and health effects and encourage the use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to control emissions from relevant sources to reduce risk.

Having as support the following documents:

The legal framework for the management of biomedical waste in Guinea-Bissau;

The Biomedical Waste Management Procedures Manual;

The National Strategy and Action Plan for Communication on the Environmentally Sound Management of Biomedical Waste using BAT/BEP in Guinea-Bissau.

Progress

There is a lot of change from a time when people burned in the open and did not respect safety and environmental protection measures using BAT/BEP.

Populations are informed and made aware of the impacts of mercury and its compounds on the environment and human health.

▼ 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

We intend to put in place a regulatory framework and adopt effective measures to control and monitor activities in this cement clinker installation.

Obtain means and materials to control emissions.

Progress

Progress will depend on the implementation of effective and sustainable measures and on having the means and materials to control emissions in the cement clinker production facility.

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

There is a lack of legal and regulatory framework and the development of the National Strategy for the management of mercury and its compounds.

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Have not been a party for 5 years

If no such inventory exists, please explain

Guinea-Bissau has prepared the Minamata Initial Assessment Report for Guinea-Bissau, April 2019. (MINAMATA INITIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR GUINEA-BISSAU)

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

Please explain

The country has not yet developed its National Action Plan on mercury and its compounds.
The country needs an expert in the field of mercury to support it with its clear and effective guidelines on measures to learn to better develop its National Action Plan.

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

The development of the action plan will allow the country to have an orientation document on the effective measures to be taken into consideration in the sustainable management of mercury and its compounds to better control emissions and to have the expected results.

▼ 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

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?

2019-04-15

Please indicate where this inventory is available

The inventory has been completed and the Minamata initial assessment report for Guinea-Bissau is available and sent to the Convention Secretariat. (MINAMATA INITIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR GUINEA-BISSAU, April 2019)

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

The country really needs to make the new inventory to update its data on the different sources of emissions including their releases.

▼ 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

The country does not have any sites built for environmentally sound interim storage of mercury and its compounds.

Guinea-Bissau, for the moment does not carry out any activity likely to use Mercury, therefore, for the moment it does not need to build sites for the storage of mercury.

▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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

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

The country has not implemented Article 11 due to lack of means and materials necessary for its effective implementation.

Guinea-Bissau needs to prepare its national strategy for the management of mercury and its compounds, have adequate facilities for the storage of its wastes, the means and materials necessary for the disposal of mercury, and adopt adequate legal measures on mercury wastes and its compounds, which will meet the requirements of Article 11.1 concerning mercury wastes.

The country has neither installation nor technology and material for final elimination of waste of mercury and its compounds. It is very important to take measures concerning the importation of products containing mercury, including products imported at the end of their life.

Guinea-Bissau is also a Party to other Conventions on Hazardous Chemicals, will still need to consider appropriate measures to meet the obligations set out in paragraph 3 of the article.

▼ 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

The country needs to develop its National Strategy on Mercury and its compounds;

Identify and assess sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds located on its territory and to carry out various activities relating thereto.

Sites likely to be contaminated in the country are mainly sites where mercury-containing products and mercury compounds are disposed of and burned

There is a need to carry out work and develop a strategy to identify and assess sites will be required to meet the obligations set out in this paragraph.

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

With the development of National Strategies, the country will adopt a strategic document to deal with the various problems of sites contaminated by mercury and its compounds and this will allow good management by taking into account good practices.

We need to do additional work regarding contaminated sites.

▼ 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

The country does not have within its means, but will mobilize funds from these partners and seek funding to support the implementation of the various national activities programmed, such as, for example, information and awareness campaigns on the impacts of mercury and its compounds on the environment and human health, as well as other planned activities.

Please provide comments, if any.

We need the necessary and available means to carry out the various activities programmed on mercury and its compounds for the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

Despite we have the Basic Environment, Law 1/2011 of 02/03/2011 and the Regulation of Decree 06/2017 of July 28, 2017.

This regulation clearly defines the public entity competent to receive appeals of costs, fines, donations, bilateral and multilateral aid or subsidies organizations and/or partners working in the field of environmental management and applies them in order to prevent or repair damage caused to the environment, contribute to ensuring the desired sustainability.

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

Guinea-Bissau can make its efforts as a Party to the extent of its possibility to contribute to the mechanism for the implementation of the Minamata Convention to respect and fulfill with the contributions granted to developing countries.

Please provide comments, if any.

Access the national resources necessary to implement the obligations of the Convention with regard to compliance with this article.

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

Guinea-Bissau, is a developing country that has no means to finance other countries of the same level (developing countries), what it can do is to give its contribution through a scale defined as contributions which is agreed to provide for all developing countries or countries with economies in transition to contribute to the implementation of the Convention.

Please provide comments, if any.

As a Party, we want to do everything to give our contribution to the implementation of the Minamata Convention by respecting all the procedures on the contribution but we need the necessary means to do so.

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

One of the major problems is to have the funds to draw up the documents and to carry out the various activities for the implementation of the Convention.

▼ 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

Guinea-Bissau is open to collaborating with other Parties and always wants to cooperate with the Convention for capacity building.
The country does not have the technical means and qualified human resources in this area to provide technical assistance to another Party.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

The country has received support that allows it to carry out the work on mercury and to prepare the MINAMATA INITIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR GUINEA-BISSAU

Please provide comments, if any.

That the Convention Secretariat provide support to Parties in capacity building and technical assistance necessary for the management of mercury and its compounds by transferring environmentally sound technologies in accordance.

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

Guinea-Bissau does not have any advanced environmentally sound alternative technologies as well as access to these technologies, which is why it needs the assistance of the Secretariat in accessing these advanced technologies and in the transfer and the dissemination of environmentally sound alternative technologies that will contribute to the management of mercury and its compounds.

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

The country needs capacity building for key players in mercury management and the necessary technical assistance based on appropriate technologies for the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

▼ 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.

Through the realization of information and awareness campaigns on the impacts of mercury on health and the environment;

Displays in public places of illustrative images as well as information relating to the Minamata Convention on the impacts of mercury on the environment and human health;

Make the population aware of the various materials containing mercury.

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.

Through the National Institute of Public Health to provide technical and scientific training in the field of health sector;

The implementation of the Communication Strategy on chemicals and hazardous waste.

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

It is very important to provide information in a clear way to the public and to sensitize the general population on the harmful effects of mercury in health and the environment and also to inform on the effective measures to be taken.

▼ 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

The country is ready to cooperate and facilitate exchanges of information on mercury and its compounds and other dangerous chemical substances whether the information is scientific, technical, legal or other, as well as information on the impacts in the environment and human health associated with mercury and its compounds with the Convention Secretariat and interested Parties.

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

The exchange of information is very important, it will allow the Parties to better acquire much more relevant information on mercury and its compounds and to contribute to good management. The exchange of information and experiences opens up new avenues and contributes to the personal and professional development of those involved in the mercury management process.

▼ 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

The Ministry of Environment works in strict collaboration with the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Social Communication Bodies throughout the process of Information, Sensitization and education of the public.

There is also within the Ministry of Environment a Department in charge of Information, Disclosure and Environmental Education to carry out all work concerning information on the environment.

The country's social media outlets play an important role in disseminating information on the negative impacts of hazardous chemicals including mercury and its compounds.

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

Information, sensitization and education are key factors in changing the behavior and mentality of the population, reinforcing whenever necessary the communication mechanisms on mercury.

▼ 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

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

The country encounters many difficulties in carrying out research and development and monitoring activities of mercury and its compounds, therefore, it requires strengthening the technical capacity of its human resources in the various themes related to mercury and to have means and materials. technologies needed to control and monitor mercury and its compounds at the national level.

Have the technological and material means to identify mercury and its compounds;

Carry out an inventory on mercury and its compounds at the national level;

Continue to develop various activities such as information and awareness campaigns on the impacts of mercury on health and the environment at the national level;

Encourage research at the national level on mercury;

Create the necessary mechanisms for monitoring and surveillance and involve the actors concerned.

To be in conformity with paragraph 1, it is necessary to have the necessary means and support.

▼ COMMENTS

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

We find many challenges to achieving the objectives of the Convention, including:

- Establishing national legal and regulatory frameworks on mercury and its compounds;
- Develop a national strategy on mercury management;
- Strengthen the technical capacity of stakeholders involved in the sound management of mercury;
- Have technological means and materials available;
- Have the ability to identify and control mercury trafficking;
- Strengthen education, information and public awareness campaigns at all levels;
- Define the years for the completion of the national inventory on mercury and its compounds in order to have reliable data on the quantity of emissions for each product or sector;
- Capacity building in the various themes on mercury and technical assistance to Parties in the implementation of the Convention.

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

The form is well developed and the questions are very clear, it follows an organized path respecting the order of the articles of the Convention, which allows a good understanding and all this will make it easier for the Parties to complete the report.

As for the possible improvements, I would like to say the following:

There needs to be a list on mercury and another list on products containing mercury, from which each Party must deal with mercury and mercury compounds found in his country;

There must have a lot more open-ended questions;

Requiring that the boxes for comments and observations must be completed, this will make it possible to know the different opinions in relation to the questions asked and this will be very important for decision-making in the implementation of the Convention.