

FIRST FULL NATIONAL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY 2021



REPORTING PERIOD:

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Mauritius

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

21 September 2017

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

20 December 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division)

Title of National Focal Point

1. Permanent Secretary 2. Director of Environment

Name of National Focal Point

1. Mrs. Moheene NATHOO 2. Mr. Jogeewar SEEWOOBADUTH

Mailing address

Cnr Barracks & St Georges Streets, 230, Port Louis, Mauritius

Telephone number

+2302127175

Fax number

+2302128324

E-mail

mnathoo@govmu.org

Second E-mail

menv@govmu.org

Web page

<https://environment.govmu.org/Pages/Index.aspx>

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

a3_subsection

Full name of the institution

Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division)

Title of contact officer

Acting Deputy Director

Name of contact officer

Rajiv BEEDASSY

Mailing address

Cnr Barracks & St Georges Streets, 230, Port Louis, Mauritius

Telephone number

+2302120589

Fax number

+2302137140

E-mail

rbeedassy@govmu.org

Second E-mail

menv@govmu.org

Web page

<https://environment.govmu.org/Pages/Index.aspx>

▼ 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 the Republic of Mauritius there are no mercury mines, units or plants involved in primary metal production or making use of mercury or its compounds. (Please refer to the Republic of Mauritius

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

ba34_subsection

*If the party answered Yes to Question 3 above:

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

No stockpiles of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons have been identified during the latest inventory undertaken in 2018. (Findings at Page 27, Level 2 Inventory of Republic of Mauritius Minamata Initial Assessment Report 2018.)

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

- MUS_3.3.pdf

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

{Empty}

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

{Empty}

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

{Empty}

▼ ART. 4: MERCURY-ADDED PRODUCTS

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

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

If yes, please provide information on the measures.

Mercury-added products are not produced in Mauritius. The import of mercury-added products are administratively controlled by the Customs and/or Pharmacy Board at entry points.

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.

To limit the use of dental amalgam in Mauritius, the Ministry of Health has been very active in initiating measures that include:

- Strengthening of oral health promotion and disease prevention in schools and communities as the strategy to reduce the use of all restorative dental materials. Preventive care reinforced by widespread use of fluoride and pits and fissure sealants among children.
- Banning of dental amalgam in pregnant women and young children.
- An increased focus on the use of 'white fillings', glass-ionomer cements and resin-based composite materials.
- Use of amalgam separators, together with other measures of Best Management Practices contemplated to reduce mercury discharge to the environment.

[NOTE: Above extract is from the Republic of Mauritius Minamata Initial Assessment Report 2018, pg 77.]

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.

There is no manufacture/assembly of products that contain mercury in Mauritius.

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.

Import of mercury is strictly controlled under the Dangerous Chemical Control Act (DCCA), thereby preventing its availability as a potential raw material.

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

{Empty}

▼ 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)

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

1. No manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used is found in Mauritius (Findings at Page 14, Level 2 Inventory of Republic of Mauritius Minamata Initial Assessment Report 2018).

2. Please note that there is a minor typing error at Paragraph 5.2. It should read 'do not' instead of 'to not.

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

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

☐ Yes

☐ No

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

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

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

Given that there is no ASGM in Mauritius, the logical response to Question 7.2 would have been: 'Not Applicable'. However, this option is not available in the reporting tool.

Hence, during the Minamata Online sessions held on 22 November 2021, clarifications were sought for Question 7.2. Accordingly, we were advised to select 'No' in this particular case.

Hence it is suggested that the Secretariat could look into the possibility to add a third option (to read as 'Not Applicable') to this particular question.

▼ 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

There has been no new plant which falls under the above mentioned category, for this reporting period.

Attach relevant documentation

{Empty}

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

- A new proposed air standard has been developed which includes thresholds for both ambient and stack emissions. The regulation has however not yet been promulgated.
- The mercury content in coal is monitored for each consignment, whereby the importer submits the 'Certificate of sampling and analysis of shipment of coal'. The results include an analysis of the mercury content in the consignment.
- Procurement of coal with low mercury and Sulphur content are favoured.
- Coal power plants are subject to Environment Impact Assessment Licence, whereby there promoters are required to propose best available technologies for approval.
- Coal ash generated from coal power plants are used as additives in cement, hence reducing potential release of mercury and other pollutants.
- The policy adopted by Government is to phase out the use of coal in energy sector by 2030.
- New solar farms and hydroelectric power stations are being implemented.

Progress

- Proposed threshold in air standards.
- The mercury content in coal was 0.4 mg/kg in year 2007 and now ranges from 0.012 to 0.146 mg of Hg/kg of coal.
- In year 2020 there were 4 coal power plants in operation and all these plants were subject to an EIA.
- From 2013 to 2020 EIA Licences were granted to renewable energy power plants of capacity of 75.88 (MW).
- The Renewable Energy Roadmap are being reviewed so as to achieve the phasing out of coal by 2030.

▼ 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

- A new proposed air standard has been developed which includes thresholds for both ambient and stack emissions. The regulation has however not yet been promulgated.
- The use of coal powered boilers is insignificant in the industrial sector (2.66 kg/ year).

Progress

{Empty}

▼ 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

No smelting or roasting processes undertaken.

Progress

{Empty}

▼ 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

A new proposed air standard has been developed which includes thresholds for both ambient and stack emissions. The regulation has however not yet been promulgated.

From Mercury Initial Assessment report:

- There is no incineration of Municipal Solid Waste (Pg 48 of MIA Report 2018)
- No incineration of hazardous waste other than fuel oil sludge is undertaken (Hazardous waste – Page 48 of MIA Report 2018)
- Emissions from Medical waste amounts to some 24.19 kg/year (Page 50 of MIA Report 2018)

Progress

{Empty}

▼ 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

{Empty}

Progress

{Empty}

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

No cement clinker production undertaken.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Have not been a party for 5 years

If yes, when was the inventory last updated?

Thu, 11/29/2018 – 00:00

Please indicate where this inventory is available

See upload made at Section 3.3.

Attach

{Empty}

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

Implementing Sustainable Low and non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) Project. The program is meant to assist SIDS in addressing challenges being faced in the sound and sustainable management of chemicals and wastes. Mauritius is participating in the regional project within the Indian Ocean along with other three participating islands namely: Comoros, Maldives, and Seychelles. The project will be funded through a grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with assistance from the UNDP. The Project Document has been submitted to GEF for consideration and a deliberation is expected by end 2021.

The objective of the Indian Ocean Regional Project is for each participating Small Island Developing State (SIDS) to:

- Prevent the future build-up of materials and chemicals entering SIDS that contain POPs and mercury and other harmful chemicals;
- Safely manage and dispose of existing harmful chemicals, products and materials currently present in those SIDS; and
- Ensure the safe management of products continuing to enter SIDS by closing materials and product loops.

▼ 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?

2018-11-29

Please indicate where this inventory is available

See attachment at Section 3. Kindly note that a copy of the report has also been transmitted to the Minamata Convention Secretariat.

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

The Mercury Initial Assessment Report 2018 which includes a National Inventory on Mercury, did not reveal any significant sources of releases as per Paragraph 2(b) of Article 9.

▼ 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

In the Republic of Mauritius there are neither mercury mines, nor industry making use of mercury or mercury compounds in the manufacturing processes.

▼ 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 is no final disposal facility for mercury containing wastes in Mauritius. However, an interim storage facility for hazardous wastes is in operation since 24 April 2017, which provides for the interim storage of hazardous chemicals wastes including mercury containing wastes, generated in Mauritius, which are subsequently exported to licensed facilities, mostly in Europe.

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

{Empty}

▼ 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

A National Inventory was undertaken in year 2018, whereby no mercury contaminated sites were identified.

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

{Empty}

▼ 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 Republic of Mauritius has legislative and institutional framework which enables the implementation of several aspects of the Minamata Convention. For instance, import of mercury and mercury compounds are prohibited or controlled through the Dangerous Chemical Control Act or the Consumer Protection Regulations. With regard to waste management, the Solid Waste Management Division is the enforcing agency for hazardous waste and an interim hazardous waste storage facility is operational since 2017. All mercury compounds and wastes are collected and exported to approved facilities abroad. Moreover, mercury and mercury containing products are controlled by customs at entry point (Seaport and Airport). In terms of monitoring of the environmental media, the National Environmental Laboratory carries out air quality analysis for presence of mercury in the air.

A mercury Initial Assessment report was prepared in 2018 and this includes an action plan for the implementation of additional measures to be in line with the Minamata Convention. Mauritius has secured funding under GEF for the implementation of a project entitled 'Implementing Sustainable, Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)'. The main objective of this project is the sound management of chemicals and wastes addressed through strengthening the capacity of sub-national, national and regional institutions and strengthening the enabling policy and regulatory framework. The project will also include main activities identified in the Mercury Action Plan and is expected to start in the June 2021.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

Mauritius is in the category of economy in transition.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

Please specify

Mauritius is in the category of economy in transition.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

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

{Empty}

▼ 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

It is to be noted that Mauritius as a developing country also forms part of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and needs for capacity-building and technology transfer to address challenges faced in the management waste containing mercury and mercury compounds.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

The Republic of Mauritius has benefitted financial and technical assistance from GEF to carry out the Minamata Initial Assessment project 2018, which includes an inventory at National level and an action plan. Mauritius has also benefitted financial assistance from UNITAR for the Early Ratification of the Convention in 2016/2018.

Please provide comments, if any.

{Empty}

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Other

Please specify

Mauritius is a developing country and also forms part of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

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

{Empty}

▼ ART. 16: HEALTH ASPECTS

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

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

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

- The Republic of Mauritius has under the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) project 2018 carried out several training and awareness activities for main stakeholder in sectors dealing with mercury products, namely the Government bodies, importers, NGOs, jewellery and dentistry sector.
- Sensitisation and awareness campaigns on dangers of mercury; environmental and health impacts of mercury and alternatives were carried out for the public at large.
- The MIA project has been prepared in consultation with government institutions, private sectors, dentistry; NGOs and academia.

(Findings at Page 126, Level 2 Inventory of Republic of Mauritius Minamata Initial Assessment Report 2018.)

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.

The Republic of Mauritius has put in place the following measures:

- Mauritius has already established various standards imposing limitations on mercury content in fish and fish products, drinking water and effluent.
- Import of batteries containing mercury is prohibited under the Consumer Protection Regulations (1999).
- Mercury and its derivatives including agricultural chemicals are classified as extremely dangerous industrial chemicals under the Dangerous Chemicals Control Act (2004) and their import, use and disposal are strictly controlled.
- The Explosives Act dating as far back as 1959 and which defines “explosives” as “fulminate of mercury” amongst other things, and prohibits their manufacture unless a permit is granted by the Police Commissioner.

- The Toys (Safety) Regulations 1994, which provide for the protection of toy users against mercury.
- The Food Regulations 62 (1999), which restrict, amongst others, mercury in at least 59 items with a maximum permitted proportion of 0.03 parts per million.
- The Pharmacy Board issues permits to import skin-lightening creams and lotions to companies only after having received a certificate of analysis ruling out the presence of mercury in such products.
- The Ministry of Health has set a general practice for the last 10 years of not using dental amalgam in children below 10 years old and pregnant women.
- The Ministry of Health is no longer acquiring mercury containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers from use in public hospitals.
- The Ministry of Education has stopped purchasing mercury-containing thermometers for schools laboratories; and
- Recycling of gold and silver metal from the jewellery industry is now increasingly being undertaken by a specialised recycling and refining plant, which does not use mercury.

(Source: Republic of Mauritius Minamata Initial Assessment Report 2018).

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

Training and awareness activities were carried out for main stakeholder in sectors dealing with mercury products, namely the Government bodies, importers, NGOs, jewellery and dentistry sector (Findings at Page 126, Level 2 Inventory of Republic of Mauritius Minamata Initial Assessment Report 2018).

▼ 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

Mauritius carried out the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA), with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The MIA project comprised four main outputs, namely: (i) a level 2 mercury inventory; (ii) a legal and institutional gap analysis, (iii) a communications plan, and (iv) a national implementation plan.

Under this project, a series of information exchanged was undertaken between authorities, namely, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Customs Department, the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection, and the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives to come up with the following analysis/findings:

- (a) a level 2 mercury inventory for the year 2014;
- (b) analysis of some hair samples taken from relevant stakeholders;
- (c) analysis of fish and fish products.

Under the MIA Project, public awareness at large was also undertaken. (Please refer to information provided for Art. 18: Public information, awareness and education)

The MIA Report for Mauritius is available on the Minamata Convention on Mercury Webpage.

Moreover, any information, if available, as may be requested by the Secretariat on any provision of the Convention, is submitted accordingly.

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

{Empty}

▼ ART. 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

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

1. All jewellers (400), which include all local manufacturers and exporters in this sector, were sensitized on health effects of mercury and availability of alternatives to mercury in the jewellery sector. Pamphlets were also circulated to all of them;
2. All dental practitioners (342) from both public and private sectors were sensitized on the health effects of dental amalgam and its alternatives. Posters were also circulated to them and same are being displayed in their consultation room;
3. All registers NGOs of the Department of Environment (42) were sensitized on the dangers of mercury and availability of its alternatives awareness raising workshop; and
4. The public at large were sensitized on the dangers of mercury in our daily activities at household level and its alternatives, through video clips broadcasted in public buses (74) for a period of 3 months.

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

{Empty}

▼ ART. 19: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please describe these actions

1. During the implementation of the Mercury Initial Assessment project, the following activities were undertaken:

(a) a level 2 mercury inventory for the 2014 calendar year:

(i) total input of mercury was estimated to be 760 kg;

(ii) total estimated emissions and releases of mercury was 671 kg.

(b) analysis of some hair samples taken from relevant stakeholders:

(i) 48 samples of hair (27 males and 21 females) from different stakeholders and the normal population were analysed.

(ii) The mercury levels ranged from non-detectable (< 0.0041 mg/kg) to 11.31 mg/kg with a mean of

1.17 mg/kg.

(iii) 31% of the samples exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guideline of 1 mg/kg.

(iv) Females were found to have a higher mean (1.54 mg/kg) compared to males (0.78 mg/kg).

(v) The sample having the highest level, namely 11.31 mg/kg, was taken from a female working in the jewellery sector.

(vi) A higher mercury prevalence was observed in population sample with fish consumption diet both for Mauritius and Rodrigues.

(vii) Two vegetarians had non-detectable mercury hair contents.

2. The mercury content in coal is monitored for each consignment whereby the coal importer of the country submits the 'Certificate of Sampling and Analysis of Shipment of Coal'. The results include an analysis of mercury content in each consignment. The average level of mercury in coal consignments (from 2017 to 2020) was 0.087 mg/kg (standard deviation = 0.025 mg/kg), with a minimum level of 0.012 mg/kg and a maximum level of 0.146 mg/kg.

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

{Empty}

▼ COMMENTS

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

Challenges identified in the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) Report 2018 are mainly in connection with improved information collection and monitoring of imported goods. It is to be noted that Mauritius does not manufacture products that are prohibited under the Convention. Hence, there is a need at international level for more stringent control at point of manufacture of these prohibited products. This will be beneficial for Mauritius (being a Small Island Developing State), who otherwise is normally at the receiving end of the negative impacts of manufacturer/producers of mercury.

A Mercury Action Plan was also part of the MIA Report and elaborates on actions to be implemented at National Level to be in line with the Convention. Same has been budgeted to the tune of USD 1,315,000 in 2018. Mauritius has secured funding under GEF for the implementation of a project entitled 'Implementing Sustainable, Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) which will also include main activities identified in the Mercury Action Plan and is expected to start in the June 2021.

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

Mauritius recognises the significant effort made by the Convention and its Secretariat in the preparation of the online reporting format for parties to meet its obligation under Article 21–Reporting of the Minamata Convention.

Mauritius, as a Small Island Developing State(SIDS), has no:

- artisanal and small-scale gold mining;
- industry making use of mercury or mercury compounds; and
- involvement in the extraction of mercury.

As such certain provisions of the Convention do not apply for Mauritius. However, it is observed that the 'Not-applicable' option is not always available for such scenarios in the Online Reporting format.