

REPORTING PERIOD:

16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Uruguay

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

24 September 2014

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

16 August 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Ministry of Environment

Title of National Focal Point

Mrs

Name of National Focal Point

Judith Torres

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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

a3_subsection

Full name of the institution

Ministerio de Ambiente

Title of contact officer

oficial de la Asesoría de Cooperación y Relaciones Internacionales

Name of contact officer

Judith Torres

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▼ ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Additional information on this question if needed

{Empty}

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

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*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.

unchanged from previous reporting

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

{Empty}

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

The chloralkali facility in the territory is the only one that consumes mercury and the solid waste contaminated with mercury is disposed off in an industrial waste facility.

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

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▼ 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.

Decree 15/019 on mercury added products and their wastes

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.

Any mercury added product being imported need to register previously and provide adequate information. Once information is revised, it would be allowed or not allowed to be imported.

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 manufacturing process with mercury added products in the country

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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

there is no manufacturing of mercury added products in Uruguay

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

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

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ I do not know

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

there is one chloroalkali facility in Uruguay with mercury electrode. There have presented a plan for dismantling of the facility and for a new one with membrane technology.

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

one facility

The estimation is 350 kg/ year of mercury

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

0,7 metric tons in 2 years

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)

If yes, please provide information on these measures.

The Ministry have communicated the facility of the deadlines of the process under the Convention

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

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

7.1. Have steps been taken to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale

gold mining and processing subject to article 7 within your territory?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

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

{Empty}

▼ 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

Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals

Decree 135/2021 on standard emissions for fixed and mobile sources, that limited Hg emissions to 0,07 mg/Nm³–Oxygen 7%

☒ Waste incineration facilities

Waste incineration facilities

Decree 135/2021 on standard emissions for fixed and mobile sources, that limited Hg emissions to 0,07 mg/Nm³– 7% Oxygen 7%

☒ Cement clinker production facilities

Cement clinker production facilities

Decree 135/2021 on standard emissions for fixed and mobile sources, that limited Hg emissions to 0,07 mg/Nm³– 7% Oxygen 7%

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

{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

{Empty}

Progress

{Empty}

▼ 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

{Empty}

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

the emission limit for Hg and mercury compounds is 0,07 mg/Nm³ –Oxygen 7%

Progress

the emission limit for Hg and mercury compounds is 0,07 mg/Nm³ –Oxygen 7%

▼ 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 emission limit for Hg and mercury compounds is 0,07 mg/Nm³ –Oxygen 7%

Progress

the emission limit for Hg and mercury compounds is 0,07 mg/Nm³ –Oxygen 7%

▼ 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}

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

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

the last update of the mercury inventory following UNEP's toolkit was in 2015

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

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

There is a plan to develop a project on PRTR where mercury emissions will be considered

There is no coal-fired power plant or coal-fired industrial boiler in the territory

▼ 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.

there is a decree in place that limits the releases to different types of water courses

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

Please explain

last update was in 2015

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

The last version of the UNEP's toolkit for emissions and releases was updated in 2015

▼ 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

There is a source which is mercury contained un discarded thermometers that are stored in a secured unit awaiting final disposal.

▼ 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 an industrial landfill that receives mercury waste with certain content of mercury as final dsiposal.

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.

There is an estimation according to what the facilities informed :245 metric tons. The main part was due to a legacy waste.

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

The Japanese environmental agency JICA collaborated closely to monitor and establish hot spots of mercury contamination in the site of the chloralkali facility .

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

The information gathered during the monitoring of mercury and mercury compounds allowed the authorities to make informed decisions about the contaminated site and established specific measures for the site its surroundings.

▼ 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

there were dedicated personnel to support mercury monitoring. The personnel was trained in different aspects since sampling to analytical methods.

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

Uruguay did not have the financial capacity to assist other countries. Although Uruguay is graduated according to OECD's criteria, it is still difficult to develop a specific fund for mercury-related activities. In many cases this topic goes along with other issues such as industrial waste or waste in general. In this part of the world, the management of household waste is still a problematic issue.

Please provide comments, if any.

Uruguay has been collaborating on south-south trainings, activities and webinars.

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

Uruguay is not in the capacity to do so.

Please provide comments, if any.

Regional Basel and Stockholm convention centers with expertise in mercury projects had proved useful to manage funds and collaborate with technical inputs.

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

through south-south collaboration with other countries in the region: Argentina, Ecuador, Perú regarding mercury added products piece of legislation and management controls.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

Different project activities allowed ministry officers and others to receive training in laboratory analytics, mercury management, waste treatments, environmentally sound disposal of waste as well as chlorakali dismantling operations.

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

During the GEF National Project " Environmental Sound Life–Cycle Management of Mercury Containing Products and their Wastes", we developed a communication plan for dissemination of information on mercury products and articles and their alternatives.

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.

Uruguay developed a study to determine the media of mercury concentration in pregnant women and newborns. Samples of hair, urine and blood were taken analyzed according to statistical criteria.

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.

mercury medical devices for temperature and blood pressure control were forbidden by decree 15/019, <https://www.impo.com.uy/bases/decretos/15-2019>

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

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▼ ART. 17: INFORMATION EXCHANGE

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please provide more information, if any

Together with the Communication Plan of mercury added products and articles, several materials were developed and are available in the Ministry of Environment Web Page, such as guidance and reports.

<https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-ambiente/mercurio>

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

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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

Different materials were developed and are available in the Ministry of Environment Web Page, such as guidance and reports.

<https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-ambiente/mercurio>

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

there is a monitoring of water courses and lagoons throughout the territory and facilities relevant to mercury controls provide an annual declaration of effluents and wastes to the Ministry of Environment.

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

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▼ COMMENTS

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

additional resources are needed to fulfill reporting obligations, projects are an important source for complementing national actions. As Uruguay is graduated, less international cooperation is available and pandemic conditions also has lowered the access to the chemical and waste agenda in general.

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

I´ve found the format easy to follow and deliver the information.