FIRST FULL NATIONAL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY 2021

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

REPORTING PERIOD:
16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

Attachments can be found on the website

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party
Republic of Moldova

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited
20 June 2017

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party
18 September 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution
Ministry of Environment

Title of National Focal Point
Ms.

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
{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

If the party answered No above, please explain.
There are no 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
- [x] 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.
To date, Moldova has undertaken important efforts to facilitate the Minamata Convention implementation, such as conducting mercury release inventories from main sources,
The Republic of Moldova has already elaborated and currently is enforcing several documents to facilitate the Minamata Convention implementation, to securing the life cycle management mercury containing products and waste and namely:

At legislation level:
- Law nr. 51/2017 on Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Law nr. 209/2016 on waste
- Law nr.277/2018 on chemicals
- Regulation on export and import of dangerous chemical substances GD no. 505/2020
- Regulation on waste electrical and electronic equipment GD no. 212/2018
- Regulation on batteries and accumulators and their waste GD no. 586/2020
- Regulation on waste transfer GD no.411/2022
- Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (draft)
- Regulation on landfill of waste (draft)
- Regulation on mercury and mercury waste management (draft)

At policy level:

- The draft GD National Program on Waste Management of the Republic of Moldova 2023-2027
- The draft GD National Program on Sustainable Management of Chemicals 2023-2027

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

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.
By prohibiting certain products.In 2020, it entered into force in the Republic of Moldova, Law no. 277/2018 on chemical substances containing provisions on the prohibition of the manufacture, import and use of mercury and mercury products

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.
As regards the regulatory issues related to mercury thermometers, according to the recently approved Chemicals Law no 277/2018 (in force 2020) it is prohibited the manufacture, place on market and use mercury and its compounds in:
1) medical thermometers;
2) other measuring devices intended for sale to the general public, such as:
a) manometers,
b) barometers,
c) sphygmomanometers,
d) thermometers, other than medical thermometers
3) measuring devices intended for professional and industrial use, such as:
a) barometers;
b) hygrometers;
c) manometers;
d) sphygmomanometers;
e) deformation measuring devices used in plethysmographs, tensiometers, thermome-ters and other non-electrical thermometric applications.

Based on Minamata Convention provisions, the restrictions were applied to devices which are placed on the market empty if intended to be filled with mercury.

Part E - Additional comments on the article in free text if the party chooses

to do so

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

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

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No
- ○ I do not know

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

CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No
- ○ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

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

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

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

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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

VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER PRODUCTION

- ○ Yes

- ○ No
- ◉ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

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

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

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

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

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

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

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

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
- ☐ 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 are no new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds

Attach relevant documentation
- MDA_8.1.pdf

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
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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
{Empty}

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

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

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No
- (●) Have not been a party for 5 years

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

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

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

- ( ) Yes
- (●) No

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

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▼ ART. 9: RELEASES

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

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) I do not know

Please indicate the measures taken to address releases from relevant sources and the effectiveness of those measures.
The sources of releases defined in paragraph 2b of article 9 Minamata convention are identified in Minamata initial Assessment.
In 2018, the Environment Agency was established in the Republic of Moldova by GD no. 549/2018

regarding the establishment, organization and operation of the Environment Agency.
The Environment Agency is responsible for the protection of atmospheric air and climate change and for monitoring the quality of environmental factors, including air pollution monitoring.

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

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

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

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

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No
- ○ I do not know

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

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▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

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

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.
In 2020, it entered into force in the Republic of Moldova, Law no. 277/2018 on chemical substances containing provisions on the prohibition of the manufacture, import and use of mercury and mercury products listed in Part I of Annex A to the Convention. The legal framework is supplemented by other normative acts, as follows:

- Law nr. 51/2017 on Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Law nr. 209/2016 on waste
- Law nr.277/2018 on chemicals
- Regulation on export and import of dangerous chemical substances GD no. 505/2020
- Regulation on waste electrical and electronic equipment GD no. 212/2018
- Regulation on batteries and accumulators and their waste GD no. 586/2020
- From September 2023, the Regulation on waste transfers approved by G.D. no. 411 of 22.06.2022 enters into force.

In the Republic of Moldova, there is no infrastructure for the disposal of hazardous waste, with techniques and technological solutions in accordance with European standards. In accordance with Law no. 209/2016 on waste and the requirements of the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and its Disposal, and pursuant to permits issued by the Environment Agency, hazardous waste is exported from the Republic of Moldova.

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

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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

Republic of Moldova is in the period 2016-2017. prepared by the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA), through a
project funded by the UNEP/GEF supported project
"Development of Minamata Initial Assessment in Moldova", in order to provide facts about the situation in RM in this area and then it was determined that there are no sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds.

Relevant national legislation:
- Law nr. 51/2017 on Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Law nr. 209/2016 on waste
- Law nr.277/2018 on chemicals
- Regulation on export and import of dangerous chemical substances nr. 505/2020

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

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▼ ART. 13: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISM

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

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Please specify
The Republic of Moldova in the period 2016-2017 prepared by the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA), through a project funded by the UNEP/GEF supported project "Development of the Minamata Initial Assessment in Moldova", to provide data on the situation in the Republic of Moldova in this area and then it was determined that there are no sites contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds.
The Republic of Moldova has already developed and is currently implementing several documents, relevant for securing the life cycle management of products and waste containing mercury, namely:
At the policy level:
- The National Waste Management Strategy of the Republic of Moldova 2013-2027
- National program on the rational management of chemical substances (2010-2020)

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
The Republic of Moldova is a country with 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

The Republic of Moldova is a country with 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
The Republic of Moldova is a country with economy in transition

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

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Please specify
-UNEP/GEF supported project "Development of the Minamata Initial Assessment in Moldova",
-UNEP project “Support to post-ratification of the Minamata Convention to the Republic of Moldova by Building Phase-down Capacities and Reducing Risks Associated with Mercury” financed by Specific International Programme

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
The Republic of Moldova is a country with economy in transition

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.
At the moment the country lacks the information and prevention programs to protect the population at risks with reference to mercury and mercury management.
In the frames of GEF/UNEP project in Moldova, the significant steps has been undertaken to inform the public regarding the risks associated with mercury contamination and particularly mercury products. Public information materials were developed and disseminated particularly regarding the protection of human health and the environment from the risks posed by the unsound use, management and release of mercury.
Only several cases related to training on occupational exposure to mercury were identified (cement production).

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.
Sanitary and hygienic central laboratory of the National Center for Public Health is accredited to conduct investigations Hg in food in accordance with EN 13806-12 SM SR. 8 out of 10 laboratories of Public Health Centers have the necessary equipment (atomic absorption spectrophotometers) to track mercury in food. Laboratory investigations sanitary water for hygienic central NCPH is accredited to carry out investigations according to the same accreditation certificate under SM SR EN 1483-12. There aren't yet laboratory capacities present in the country to perform the bio-monitoring (urine, blood, hair, etc).

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
The Republic of Moldova shall promote the information exchange, education and awareness building activities related to the effects of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment in collaboration with various national and regional/international stakeholders. The Environment Agency maintains the national PRTR register, which also ensures mercury-related emissions.

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
see above 16.2

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

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)

{Empty}

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL - ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

{Empty}

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