2023 SHORT REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 18 July 2023

REPORTING PERIOD:
1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party
Cameroon

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited
10 March 2021

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party
8 June 2021

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, PROTECTION OF NATURE AND SUSTANABLE DEVELOPMENT

Title of contact officer
SUB-DIRECTOR OF STANDARDS, LICENSING AND VISAS

Name of contact officer
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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 by another 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}

3.3. 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.
All efforts to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and source of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons in Cameroon have so far been in vain. These include regular inventories of chemicals during the drafting of the national chemical profile and during the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA).

The production, use, importation, transit and circulation of mercury and its compounds is prohibited in Cameroon referring to the Decree No. 2011/2581/PM of 23th August 2011 enacted by the Prime Minister of Cameroon regulating harmfull and/or dangerous chemicals.

The use of mercury in artisanal and small scale gold mining sector is forbidden by regulations in force. The use of mercury with cyanide is illegal by virtue of the 2016 regulation enacted by the Minister of Mines that bans the use of these substances in ASGM sector (order No.000554/MINMIDT/SG/DAJ/CR of 16 june 2016 to ban use of mercury and cyanide in the ASGM sector).

Therefore, since 2021 an assessment of quantity of mercury use in ASGM sector is ongoing in the framework of development a National Action Plan on mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Cameroon.

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
- [x] No, no export

Part E - Additional comments on this article

{Empty}

▼ ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

11.2. Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory?

- ( ) Yes
- (•) No
- ( ) Do not know (please explain)

Kindly attach any additional relevant information
{Empty}

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Under article 11: As far as the management of mercury waste is concerned, Cameroon has no specific facility for the final disposal of mercury waste. There is, however, a company that offers a solution for the pre-treatment of discharge lamps (tubes and light bulbs) with a view to export to France. The company has in stock 3 tons of crushed neon to be exported.
The Basel Convention's technical guidelines for the final disposal of waste are known at national level, which is applied from collection, storage, transport and to export of hazardous waste.

▼ COMMENTS

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

1. Limited resources to enforce the implementation of the regulation in place relating illegal use of mercury in ASGM sector
2. Limited resources to put in place regulation necessary to phase out mercury added products
3. Lack of equipment and weak capacities of environmental inspectors for onsite inspections of existing facilities particularly with regards to stack measurements and control of emission.
4. Lack of capacities of environmental sound interim storage of mercury. In Cameroon, interim storage of mercury compounds, other than wastes is not regulated. It will therefore be necessary to reinforce the capacities of Services in charge of storage or management of waste and chemicals in general, and mercury or its compounds particularly.
5. Capacities for assessing and communicating of health and environmental risks of exposure to mercury and its compounds, preventing, mitigating and providing early warnings for industrial/chemical

emergencies and conducting effective response (rescue and recovery) measures during such accidents are weak.
6. Capacities for environmental conformity surveys in ASGM sector are weak.

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL - ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

The format is a good reporting tool to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention by parties.