2023 SHORT REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 30 December 2023
*Question 3.5 amended by Iran (Islamic Republic of) on 15 March 2024

REPORTING PERIOD:
1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party
Iran (Islamic Republic of)

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

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

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Title of contact officer
Secretary of National Authority for Chemical Conventions

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

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Full name of the institution
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Title of contact officer
Officer of the National Authority for Chemical Conventions

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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
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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.
The only identified stock is the excess mercury of the electrolysis cells and related equipment of decommissioned Chlor-alkali plant of the Bandar Imam Petrochemical Complex located on the northwest of the Persian Gulf.

i. Please attach the results of your endeavor or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.
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ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information, for example on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks and sources.
Decommissioning of the excess mercury of the chlor-alkali plant of the Shiraz Petrochemical Complex, located on the south of Iran, carried out in 2009. All excess mercury in electrolysis cells in this plant, extracted, encapsulated and delivered to the Bandar Imam Petrochemical Complex.

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

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▼ 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)

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 a landfill for disposal of the wastes including mercury wastes of the he Bandar Imam Petrochemical Complex. Neutralization and encapsulation are the applied methods for the final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the country.
The information and data on the disposed mercury wastes in this landfill is not available at the time of
developing this national report and can be collected and complied later.

Kindly attach any additional relevant information
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Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ COMMENTS

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

General Challenges:
- Considering the continuously increasing amendments and obligations of the Convention, As article 13 and 14 of the Convention emphasizes on the need to make arrangements for providing technical assistance and promoting the transfer of technology to developing country Parties to fulfill their obligations, these areas should be of high priority to assist realizing the objective of the Convention. Also, Lack of financial resources to increase the awareness-raising with the aim of meeting the provisions of the Convention is a crucial challenge that needs to be addressed.
- There are difficulties with regard to collecting the reliable and updated information and data related with mercury from different stakeholders responsible for implementing the Convention; due to lack of central database.
- Some stakeholders are in dire need of up-to-date technologies for environmentally sound management of the mercury wastes.
- As highlighted by COPs, there is an urgent need for sharing the experiences of developed countries on monitoring mercury in different media, estimating mercury emissions and releases to the environment and controlling mercury emissions and releases from anthropogenic sources.

Specific Challenges:
1- Illegal unilateral sanctions:
- Certain technologies in the industries and other sources related with mercury in the country are not up-to-date and due to economic challenges arising from illegal unilateral sanctions on Iran, it is not possible to transfer, improve or modernize those technologies; This is a big challenge in the face of monitoring and collecting reliable information and data from industries and other sources related with mercury;
- Import of equipment's/instruments needed for identification of the heavy metals particularly for mercury is subject to illegal unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran. Therefore, identifying even the low content of the mercury in scientific and precise values is not possible and measurable.
- Relevant foreign companies that provide maintenance, technical services, products, equipment and spare parts for monitoring, measuring and controlling mercury pollutant are not willing to cooperate with Iran, out of fear of aggressive penalties and this is a big challenge for implementing the mercury emissions and releases inventory that are of the provisions of the articles of Convention.
2- It is urgent to highlight that Global Environmental Facility (GEF) as the most important financial leverage of the Convention is not giving service to Iran. many of the Iranian proposals, due to non-technical reasons, have not been agreed to be considered on the agenda of the mechanism and this is a crucial issue for implementing the obligations under convention in the area of financial resources.

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL - ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

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