MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY 2021

* Questions 5.1 and 11.2 amended by Uganda on 22 June 2022

REPORTING PERIOD:
16 August 2017 to 31 December 2020

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party
Uganda

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited
1 March 2019

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party
30 May 2019

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution
National Environment Management Authority

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
The National Minamata Initial Assessments study report of 2018 did not document primary mercury mines in Uganda. No similar activity is taking place currently.

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.
Uganda's baseline estimates studies have focused on mercury use in Artisanal and Small Scale gold mining sector. Estimates if annual mercury use in ASGM sector are 15,000 kg of Mercury.

The national Minamata Initial Assessments study in Uganda did not carry out baseline studies 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.

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
Uganda does not export mercury. However, mercury being smuggled to Democratic Republic of Congo may transit through Uganda.

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

There is limited formal importation of mercury in flasks. Records on this are captured by Customs. At Customs, an import may not be declared as mercury. It is usually branded as a chemical. After Customs verifying that it is a chemical, Uganda National Bureau of Standards goes further to check which chemical is contained in the package and whether it is prohibited or not. Customs officials are not in position to characterize a chemical or tell from a packaging that mercury is being imported. It is easier for Customs to seize elemental mercury that is disguised by travelers entering uganda because it is not well packaged and so easy to identify.

For example, traders especially supplying chemicals including mercury for academic purposes for instance are cleared by customs which then handles them over to Uganda National Bureau of Standards to find out if the imported chemical meets the standards. Customs does not have the capacity to identify a chemical. Hence a trader may disguise mercury and mis-declare it.

Usually the Environment Agency in charge of ensuring consent to import in line with the Minamata Convention on Mercury is not notified of the intention to import mercury.

In 2020 Mexico sought consent from the Environment Agency to import mercury for purposes of repackaging and also to supply to Democratic Republic of Congo. The Environment Agency convened key Agencies and did not permit Mexico to export Mercury to Uganda.

There is however smuggling of mercury across Uganda's borders.

▼ 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.
i. The National Environment Act No. 5 of 2019 gave special attention to the management of mercury and mercury compounds. In particular, Part 74. that relates to Management of products containing mercury and Part 179. that relates to Regulations

Part 74. Management of products containing mercury.

(1) The Authority shall, in consultation with the relevant lead agency, establish a criteria for—
(a) the management of mercury or mercury compounds, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium in manufacturing or mining processes;
(b) the management of products containing mercury, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium; and
(c) the provision of alternatives to products containing mercury, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium.

(2) The Minister may, by regulations, prohibit the manufacture, import, export or use of mercury, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium added products after their phase-out dates, except where they are excluded or exempted.

(3) A person shall not import, export, manufacture or use mercury, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium added products prohibited under subsection (2).

179. Regulations

(1) The Minister may, in consultation with the Authority, make regulations prescribing all matters that are required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed, or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for giving full effect to the provisions of this Act.

(m) the management of hazardous chemicals;
(o) the management of hazardous waste and other waste;
(s) the management of mercury

ii. The Environment Agency which the Convention's focal Desk has engaged relevant Government Agencies to put in place measures 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

iii. The National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2021-Draft of 17th June, 2021 is providing for enforcement of measures for not allowing 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. The regulation is still under development.

43. Restricted mercury and mercury compounds
(1) A person shall not import, manufacture, use or recycle batteries if their mercury content is above 2%
(2) A person shall not import, manufacture, use or recycle switches and relays with a mercury content of more than 20 mg per bridge, switch or relay
(3) A person shall not import, manufacture, use or recycle compact fluorescent lamps for general lighting purposes that are less or equal to 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner

(4) A person shall not import, manufacture, use or recycle Triband phosphor linear fluorescent lamps for general lighting purposes of less than 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp
(5) A person shall not import, manufacture, use or recycle Halophosphate phosphor linear fluorescent lamps for general lighting purposes of less than 40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp
(6) A person shall not import, manufacture, use or recycle High pressure mercury vapour lamps for general lighting purposes
(7) A person shall not import, manufacture, use or recycle Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps for electronic displays of short length (≤ 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp
(8) A person shall not import, manufacture, use or recycle Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps for electronic displays of medium length (> 500 mm and ≤ 1 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp
(9) A person shall not import, manufacture, use, repackage cosmetics with mercury content above 1ppm, including skin lightening soaps and creams
(10) A person shall not import, manufacture, use, repackage Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics containing mercury
(11) A person shall not import, manufacture, use or recycle non-electronic measuring devices listed below except non-electronic measuring devices installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available:
(a) barometers;
(b) hygrometers;
(c) manometers;
(d) thermometers;
(e) sphygmomanometers

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.
A. The National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2021-Draft of 17th June, 2021 is providing for phasing down the use dental amalgam and reducing mercury releases and emissions as detailed below: The regulation is still under development.

(1) A health care giver with dental facilities should ensure installation of an amalgam separator
(2) The lead agency responsible for dental health shall take measures to minimize and phase down use of dental amalgam containing mercury. delete containing mercury
(3) The lead agency responsible for dental health shall take measures to stop use of dental amalgam containing mercury delete containing mercury in children and women of child bearing age with effect from 2022

(4) In accordance with sub regulation (2), the lead agency responsible for dental health shall—
i. minimize the need for dental restoration by promoting dental caries prevention and health promotion;
ii. minimize the use of mercury-containing dental amalgam;
iii. promote the use of cost-effective and clinically effective mercury-free alternatives for dental restoration;
iv. promote research and development of quality mercury-free materials for dental restoration;
v. require representative professional organizations and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals and students on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives and on promoting best management practices;
vi. Stop/ban discouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour dental amalgam use over

mercury free dental restoration;
vii. encouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour the use of quality alternatives to dental amalgam for dental restoration;
viii. restrict the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form;
ix. promote the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and land.
x. restrict the use of dental amalgam to its encapsulated form;
xi. promote the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to water and land.

Ban on use of dental amalgam/ phasing out of dental amalgam:

i. A health care giver shall not use dental amalgam in dental restorations after the phase out date has been revised under the Minamata Convention of Mercury

B. East African Dental Amalgam Phase Down Project (EADP)-Phase 1 was implemented in Uganda by NEMA in collaboration with MDAs in 2012. Activities undertaken in 2015/16. Project funding: USD 15'000. Project activities/key achievements under the EADP-Phase I project included the following:

i. Trained trainers of trainers-three trainers (Two Dental surgeons and One Technician).
Validated results for country dental amalgam trade data and waste management practices.

ii. Three (3) Amalgam separators installed at the three demonstrations sites (Mulago Dental School, Mengo Hospital and Jubilee Dental Clinic)

iii. Trained dental health staff at the three demonstration sites (including Dental Surgeons, Dental Officers, Administrative Staff, and Chair side Assistants).

iv. Created awareness among stakeholders (Communities, Dentists, Technicians, Trainers and Policy Makers -1 workshop).

v. Printed and distributed dental awareness materials developed by WHO, Fédération Dentaire Internationale / World Dental Federation (FDI) and International Dental Manufactures (IDM) to dentists, dental aides and clinics-total of 6800 flyers and 1800 posters.

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.
i. The National Environment Act No. 5 of 2019 gave special attention to the management of mercury and mercury compounds. In particular, Part 74. that relates to Management of products containing mercury and Part 179. that relates to Regulations

ii. The Environment Agency which the Convention's focal Desk has engaged relevant Government Agencies to put in place measures 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

iii. The National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2021-Draft of 17th June, 2021 is providing for enforcement of measures for not allowing 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. The regulation is still under development.

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.
i. The National Environment Act No. 5 of 2019 gave special attention to the management of mercury and mercury compounds. In particular, Part 74. that relates to Management of products containing mercury and Part 179. that relates to Regulations

ii. The Environment Agency which the Convention's focal Desk has engaged relevant Government Agencies to put in place measures 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

iii. The National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2021-Draft of 17th June, 2021 is providing for enforcement of measures for not allowing 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. The regulation is still under development.

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

If yes, please provide information on measures taken to address emissions and releases of mercury or mercury compounds from such facilities.
i. The National Environment Act No. 5 of 2019 gave special attention to the management of mercury and mercury compounds. In particular, Part 74. that relates to Management of products containing mercury and Part 179. that relates to Regulations

ii.The National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2021-Draft of 17th June, 2021 will provide for the following:

43. Restricted mercury and mercury compounds

(1) A person shall not use mercury or mercury compounds in chlor-alkali production or import mercury or mercury compounds for the same purpose after the phase-out date of 2025.
(2) A person shall not use mercury or mercury compounds in Acetaldehyde production or import mercury or mercury compounds for the same purpose after the phase-out date of 2018

iii. Mercury and mercury compounds given special attention in
"The National Environment (Standards for Discharge of Effluent into Water or Land) Regulations, 2020".

-Schedule 3—Standards For Inorganic Substances Effluent
Discharge

-Mercury has Maximum permissible Limit of 0.01 mg/L
-Schedule 5 — Permit to Discharge Effluent into Water or Land

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.
At the time of undertaking the national inventory on mercury sources and emissions from 2017 to 2018, no Chlor-alkali production; Acetaldehyde production and Vinyl chloride monomer production using mercury or mercury compounds was revealed.

The National Minamata Initial Assessments report of 2018, revealed annual total mercury emissions of 197.64 kg from Production of polyurethane using mercury containing catalysts.

On 22nd October 2021, during a national stakeholder preparatory meeting for COP4.1, it was reported that polyurethane using mercury as a catalyst may be used in a wide range of products in Uganda including production of adhesives and mattresses. When products get exposed to Ultra Violet light, abrasions etc. mercury is released.

The UNEP toolkit did not provide for the assessment of Mercury using processes like production of Sodium or Potassium Methylate or Ethylate.

However, continued national stakeholder engagement on mercury pollution in 2021, revealed that in Uganda, polyurethane using mercury as a catalyst is used in a wide range of products like adhesives, mattress production.

It would require an updated inventory of mercury sources to be able to confirm which facilities could be producing polyurethane using mercury as a catalyst and possibly using other processes highlighted in Annex B of the Minamata Convention.

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.
The facilities have not been mapped. The National Minamata Initial Assessments report of 2018, revealed annual total mercury emissions of 197.64 kg from Production of polyurethane using mercury containing catalysts.

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.
i. The National Environment Act No. 5 of 2019 gave special attention to the management of mercury and mercury compounds. In particular, Part 74. that relates to Management of products containing mercury and Part 179. that relates to Regulations

ii. The National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing

Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2021-Draft of 17th June, 2021

43. Restricted mercury and mercury compounds
(1) A person shall not use mercury or mercury compounds in chlor-alkali production or import mercury or mercury compounds for the same purpose after the phase-out date of 2025.
(2) A person shall not use mercury or mercury compounds in Acetaldehyde production or import mercury or mercury compounds for the same purpose after the phase-out date of 2018

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

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

If yes, please provide information on these measures.
i. The National Environment Act No. 5 of 2019 gave special attention to the management of mercury and mercury compounds. In particular, Part 74. that relates to Management of products containing mercury and Part 179. that relates to Regulations

ii. The National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2021-Draft of 17th June, 2021

43. Restricted mercury and mercury compounds
(1) A person shall not use mercury or mercury compounds in chlor-alkali production or import mercury or mercury compounds for the same purpose after the phase-out date of 2025.
(2) A person shall not use mercury or mercury compounds in Acetaldehyde production or import mercury or mercury compounds for the same purpose after the phase-out date of 2018

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

- [x] No
- [ ] Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

- [ ] Yes
- [x] 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
- [x] 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
- [x] No

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

There is need to undertake baseline studies on existing manufacturing processes in which mercury or compounds are used in accordance with Article 5 and Annex B of the Minamata Covention on mercury. The national inventory on mercury sources and emissions using the UNEP Toolkit from 2017 to 2018 was majorly desk review and cannot rule out existence of facilities using such processes before the entry into force of the Convention. In addition there might be new facilities using processes listed in Annex B of the convention for which we are not aware of. This requires detailed baseline assessments for such processes.

▼ 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?

- [x] 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

If yes, please provide information on the steps.
Yes

A. Government of Uganda developed a Mining and Mineral Policy for Uganda 2018. The goal of the policy is to develop the mining industry through increased investment, value addition, national participation and revenue generation to contribute significantly to socioeconomic transformation and poverty eradication. One of the Policy Objectives is to organize and legislate artisanal and small scale mining in Uganda and to promote and protect Health, Safety and Environment in the mineral industry.

B. Government of Uganda is developing the Mining and Mineral Bill, 2019 (last updated on 12th June, 2019). This Bill recognizes the following:

i. Artisanal and Small Scale Mining
ii To provide for formalization of artisanal mining
iii. Establishment of areas for artisanal mining

C. The draft Mining and Mineral Bill, 2019 (last updated on 12th June, 2019) provides for the following:

i. Prohibition of use of explosives. For example, a person who uses of explosives and hazardous chemical substances, including cyanide and mercury in mining activities commits an offence is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand currency points or imprisonment not exceeding three years or both.

D. The National Environment Management Authority developed an Ordinance against mercury use in Buhweju District. The Ordinance is called “The Local Governments (Buhweju District) (Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Management) Ordinance, 2017”.

E. Uganda developed the National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining was finalised in December 2019

F. While in Oslo, Norway, the Government of Uganda through the Directorate of Geological Survey and mines, joined Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in August 2020.

G. The Directorate of Geological Survey and mines launched the Biometric Registration of ASM in March 2019. A Ledger of known ASM is being developed. Implementation challenges include financial resources, skills and technology gap (collection of biometric markers and social information of ASM stakeholders). The activity is funded by government of Uganda.

H. In August 2017 the Government of Uganda instituted the Police Mineral Protection Unit (PMPU) to facilitate the Formalization of ASM communities and enforce the use of standard OSHE practices. PMPU is deployed at Licensed ASM sites. This is facilitated by GoU. Implementation challenges include human resources, financial resources, skills and technology gap, Equipment gap.

I. The development of the National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in Uganda, 2019.

J. The National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2021-Draft of 17th June, 2021 are being developed by NEMA. These are among others are focusing on the following:

42. Ban on using mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing
(1) A person or local community engaged in artisanal and small-scale gold and other mining and processing shall not use mercury and mercury compounds in mining and processing

42/43. Phasing downing the use of mercury in in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing
(1) A person, group, Association, company or local community engaged in artisanal and small-scale gold and other mining and processing shall take all measures to reduce the emissions, releases and risks of exposure to mercury by 2024 in accordance with the National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small Gold Mining in Uganda

44. Ban on using mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing
(1) A person, group, Association, company or local community engaged in artisanal and small-scale gold and other mining and processing shall not use mercury and mercury compounds in mining and processing after its out date of 2024 in accordance with the National Action Plan For Artisanal And Small Gold Mining in Uganda

(2) The prohibition in sub regulation (1?) applies to emissions and releases to the environment of mercury arising from artisanal and small-scale gold and other mining and processing.

(3) A person, group, Association, company or local community engaged in artisanal and small-scale gold and other mining and processing shall adopt best environmental practices and alternative technologies that are environmentally, technically, socially, acceptable and economically viable.

K. The National Environment Act No. 5 of 2019 gave special attention to the management of mercury and mercury compounds. In particular, Part 74. that relates to Management of products containing mercury and Part 179. that relates to Regulations

Part 74. Management of products containing mercury.

(1) The Authority shall, in consultation with the relevant lead agency, establish a criteria for—
(a) the management of mercury or mercury compounds, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium in manufacturing or mining processes;
(b) the management of products containing mercury, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium; and
(c) the provision of alternatives to products containing mercury, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium.

(2) The Minister may, by regulations, prohibit the manufacture, import, export or use of mercury, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium added products after their phase-out dates, except where they are excluded or exempted.

(3) A person shall not import, export, manufacture or use mercury, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium added products prohibited under subsection (2).

179. Regulations

(1) The Minister may, in consultation with the Authority, make regulations prescribing all matters that are required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed, or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for giving full effect to the provisions of this Act.

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

7.3. Has the party developed and implemented a national action plan and submitted it to the secretariat?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] In progress

7.4. Attach your most recent review that must be completed under paragraph 3 (c) of article 7, unless it is not yet due

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7.5. Supplemental: Has the party cooperated with other countries or relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objective of this article?

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

Please provide information
i. Uganda Notified the Secretariat to the Minamata Convention that mercury use and emissions from the ASGM sector were more than insignificant.

ii. Uganda has cooperated with UNEP to implement the following project:
The regional project on development of the National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining in Africa. The key output for this project is development of the National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining, 2019.

iii. On 1st April 2020, the Government of Uganda endorsed the development of the child project titled "Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of ASGM in Uganda" which will run for five (5) years (2022-2027). The project objective is to reduce the use of mercury in the ASGM sector in the participating countries through a holistic, multi-sectoral integrated formalisation approach, and increasing access to finance. Project components include Component 1- Formalisation optimization; Component 2-Financial Inclusion and Responsible Supply Chains; Component 3-Enhancing uptake of Mercury-free technologies and Component 4-Knowledge sharing, communication and local capacity building support.

Please provide information
{Empty}

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

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▼ 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

Uganda has no new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds falling under Annex D.

At the time of Uganda's Ratification of the Minamata Convention on mercury, Uganda had confirmed existence of point sources of emissions of mercury and mercury compounds to the atmosphere from waste incineration facilities (incineration of hazardous waste-67kg/Hg/y; incineration of medical waste-70 kg/Hg/y; informal waste burning-5,185kg/Hg/Yr); cement production (236kg/Hg/y). This was revealed in the National MIAs study of 2018. Whereas no new source categories may be in existence, the number of waste incineration facilities have increases and yet it is not certain that they have good pollution abatement for mercury emissions. The level of industrialization is increasing gradually, there might be unknown sources of mercury emissions from categories under Annex D. There is need for a baseline study.

However, more emphasis has been put on management of hazardous waste including medical waste as opposed to management of emissions from waste incineration facilities and cement clinker production facilities.

Uganda is drafting regulations on air quality standards titled: The National Environment (Air Quality Standards) Regulations, 2021, draft of 16th September, 2021. These draft regulations will provide for:

A. Regulation of air emissions from different sources including best practices
1. Ambient air
2. Control of emissions from stationary sources
3. Fugitive emission reduction measures
4. Emissions from mobile sources
5. Mobile source emission reduction technologies
6. Contents of harmful substances in fuels
7. Cleaner technologies
8. Dispersion of visible emissions
9. Emissions from open burning of combustible material
10. Trans-boundary air pollution

The proposed Maximum Permissible Limits for Hazardous Ambient Air Pollutants including Mercury (Hg) is 1 µg/m3 with an annual Time-weighted Average.

B. Regulation of Occupational Air Quality Emission Limits
1. Occupational air quality emission limits
2. Protection of work environment
3. Protection of workers from exposure

The Occupational Exposure Emission Limits for Mercury and divalent inorganic compounds including

mercuric oxide and mercuric chloride (measured as mercury) with a Long term exposure limit 8 - hour TWA reference period is 0.02.

Attach relevant documentation
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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
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▼ 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
- [x] Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- [x] Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- [ ] Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- [x] Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Measures
i. Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
ii. Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
iii. Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Progress
Uganda is drafting regulations on air quality standards titled: The National Environment (Air Quality Standards) Regulations, 2021, draft of 16th September, 2021. These draft regulations will provide for:

A. Regulation of air emissions from different sources including best practices

i. Ambient air
ii. Control of emissions from stationary sources
iii. Fugitive emission reduction measures
iv. Emissions from mobile sources
v. Mobile source emission reduction technologies
vi. Contents of harmful substances in fuels
vii. Cleaner technologies
viii. Dispersion of visible emissions

ix. Emissions from open burning of combustible material
x. Trans-boundary air pollution

The proposed Maximum Permissible Limits for Hazardous Ambient Air Pollutants including Mercury (Hg) is 1 µg/m3 with an annual Time-weighted Average.

B. Regulation of Occupational Air Quality Emission Limits

i. Occupational air quality emission limits
ii. Protection of work environment
iii. Protection of workers from exposure

The Occupational Exposure Emission Limits for Mercury and divalent inorganic compounds including mercuric oxide and mercuric chloride (measured as mercury) with a Long term exposure limit 8 - hour TWA reference period is 0.02.

▼ 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
i. Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
ii. Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
iii. Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

Progress
Uganda is drafting regulations on air quality standards titled: The National Environment (Air Quality Standards) Regulations, 2021, draft of 16th September, 2021. These draft regulations will provide for:

A. Regulation of air emissions from different sources including best practices

i. Ambient air
ii. Control of emissions from stationary sources
iii. Fugitive emission reduction measures
iv. Emissions from mobile sources
v. Mobile source emission reduction technologies
vi. Contents of harmful substances in fuels
vii. Cleaner technologies
viii. Dispersion of visible emissions
ix. Emissions from open burning of combustible material
x. Trans-boundary air pollution

The proposed Maximum Permissible Limits for Hazardous Ambient Air Pollutants including Mercury (Hg) is 1 µg/m3 with an annual Time-weighted Average.

B. Regulation of Occupational Air Quality Emission Limits

i. Occupational air quality emission limits
ii. Protection of work environment
iii. Protection of workers from exposure

The Occupational Exposure Emission Limits for Mercury and divalent inorganic compounds including mercuric oxide and mercuric chloride (measured as mercury) with a Long term exposure limit 8 - hour TWA reference period is 0.02.

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 yes, when was the inventory last updated?
Thu, 03/01/2018 - 00:00

Please indicate where this inventory is available
Uganda prepared a National Minamata Initial Assessments in 2018. Uploaded on Minamata Website

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

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

If yes, please explain how the criteria for any category include at least 75 percent of the emissions from that category and explain how the party took into account guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties.

Uganda carried out level 1 and level 2 inventory using the UNEP Tool Kit.

Cement clinker production facilities
Cement production accounts for 100% under this source category

Waste incineration facilities
Informal waste burning accounts for 97.4% under this source category

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

Funds are not available to prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions from relevant sources.

▼ 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

Please explain
Uganda has no relevant sources of mercury emissions. All source categories of mercury emissions are covered by the Convention.

Uganda has taken various measures to control mercury releases as follows:

A. Mercury and mercury compounds given special attention in the "Guidelines for the Management of Landfills in Uganda (NEMA, December 2020)", for example

i. Environmental Monitoring of a Landfill

Mercury is regarded as one of the Leachate components

ii. Groundwater monitoring

Parameters for analysis for Groundwater monitoring includes mercury in mg/l with no levels indicated but monitored on a quarterly basis.

iii. Surface water monitoring

Mercury (Hg) levels of 0.01 mg/l as an indicator parameters for surface water monitoring on a Quarterly (4 times a year)

iv. Leachate and leachate sediment monitoring

Mercury (Hg) in µg/l and 0.02 mg/kg TS leachate detection limit whereas Leachate Sediment detection limit is 0.2 and is monitored 2 0r 4 times a year

B. The National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2021-Draft of 17th June, 2021

3. Application of Regulations
(1) These Regulations apply—
(b) in accordance with paragraph (a), the management of mercury or mercury compounds, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium and products containing mercury, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium; and
(c) the management of transboundary movement of hazardous chemicals and products containing hazardous chemicals.

14. Management of hazardous chemical waste
(1) A person who imports, manufactures, formulates, re-packages, stores, sells, distributes, exports, re-exports, uses or disposes hazardous chemicals and products containing hazardous chemicals shall manage hazardous chemical waste in accordance with the Act, the National Environment (Waste Management) Regulations, 2020, the Petroleum (Waste Management) Regulations, 2019, and any other written law.

(2) Without limiting the general effect of subregulation (1), a person handling a product or article upon becoming waste, consisting of, containing or contaminated with a chemical regulated by these Regulations, shall manage such waste in a manner protective of human health and the environment, and ensure that such waste shall—

(a) not be subjected to disposal operations that may lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct reuse or alternative uses of persistent organic pollutants, mercury or other chemical;

(b) remediation of contaminated sites, including those contaminated by mercury and mercury-added compounds.

C. Mercury and mercury compounds given special attention in The National Environment (Standards for Discharge of Effluent into Water or Land) Regulations, 2020".

-Total metal includes: arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, gold, lead, mercury nickel, selenium, silver and vanadium.

-Schedule 3—Standards for Inorganic Substances Effluent Discharge

-Mercury has Maximum permissible Limit of 0.01 mg/L
-Schedule 5 — Permit to Discharge Effluent into Water or Land

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

All sources of releases are covered by the Convention. However a baseline study on mercury releases is required to supplement on the National Minamata Initial Assessment study of 2018 so as to rule out any new sources.

▼ 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

Please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner and the effectiveness of those measures.

Uganda has integrated the guidelines on the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury that were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on mercury, into its environmental legal framework.

A. The National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2021-Draft of 17th June, 2021

3. Application of Regulations
(1) These Regulations apply—
(b) in accordance with paragraph (a), the management of mercury or mercury compounds, lead, cyanide, arsenic and polonium and
products containing mercury, lead,cyanide, arsenic and polonium; and
(c) the management of transboundary movement of hazardous chemicals and products containing hazardous chemicals.

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.

A. Mercury and mercury compounds given special attention in the "The National Environment Act No.5 of 2019"
Under Part 74. Management of products containing mercury and 179. Regulations respectively:

179. Regulations

(1) The Minister may, in consultation with the Authority, make regulations prescribing all matters that are required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed, or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for giving full effect to the provisions of this Act.

(m) The management of hazardous chemicals;
(o) The management of hazardous waste and other waste;
(s) The management of mercury

B. A. Mercury and mercury compounds given special attention in the National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2021-Draft of 17th June, 2021 as follows:

14. Management of hazardous chemical waste
(1) A person who imports, manufactures, formulates, re-packages, stores, sells, distributes, exports, re-exports, uses or disposes hazardous chemicals and products containing hazardous chemicals shall manage hazardous chemical waste in accordance with the Act, the National Environment (Waste Management) Regulations, 2020, the Petroleum (Waste Management) Regulations, 2019, and any other written law.

(2) Without limiting the general effect of subregulation (1), a person handling a product or article upon becoming waste, consisting of, containing or contaminated with a chemical regulated by these Regulations, shall manage such waste in a manner protective of human health and the environment, and ensure that such waste shall—

(a) not be subjected to disposal operations that may lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct reuse or alternative uses of persistent organic pollutants, mercury or other chemical;

C. Mercury and mercury compounds given special attention in the National Environment (Waste Management) Regulations, 2020

Waste containing mercury or mercury compounds is characterized as hazardous and its management is well elaborated in these regulations.

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.

-

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

There are no standalone facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory. Existing facilities handle hazardous waste with all sorts of chemicals. Given that no sorting of hazardous waste is carried out at the point of generation, it is difficult to confirm the chemical content of/waste stream and hence no information is available on quantities of waste containing mercury. The method of final disposal of hazardous waste including waste containing mercury is incineration in most cases where flue gas is not condensed and sludge stabilized.

▼ 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

This measure will be provided for the National Environment (Management of Hazardous Chemicals and Products Containing Hazardous Chemicals) Regulations, 2021-Draft of 17th June, 2021 as follows:

15. Management of Chemical contaminated sites
(1) The Authority shall, in consultation with the relevant lead agencies, develop appropriate guidelines for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by hazardous chemicals, including Persistent Organic Pollutants, mercury or mercury compounds.
(3) The measures referred to under sub regulation (2) shall be environmentally sound and shall incorporate—
(d) Remediation of contaminated sites, including those contaminated by mercury and mercury-added compounds.

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

i. Annual Government of Uganda's contribution to the Minamata Convention General Trust Fund: USD 165 (in 2019) and USD 248 (in 2020)
ii. Co-financing under the project on "Development of Minamata Convention on Mercury Initial Assessment in Africa' amounted to USD 200,000
iii. Co-financing the "Global Opportunities for Long-Term Development Of Artisanal And Small Scale Gold Mining Sector Plus - GEF Gold+ Child Project In Uganda:

The National Environment Management Authority and Directorate of Geological Survey and Mines under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development committed on behalf of Government of Uganda to provide in-kind support to the amount of 2,000,000 USD over 5 years (2022-2027), through the contribution of human resources, office space, and equipment including vehicles, office equipment and

technical expertise towards the implementation of the “Global Opportunities For Long-Term Development Of Artisanal And Small Scale Gold Mining Sector Plus – GEF Gold+ Child Project In Uganda”. This was in a letter (NEMA/ 9.5.5) dated 18th October 2021to UNEP.

Intended project outputs include reducing the use of mercury in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector through supporting formalization of the sector, access to financing for upstream supply chain actors, use of mercury-free technologies and knowledge sharing amongst project stakeholders. This will further enable compliance with the Minamata Convention, notably Article 7.

iv. Co-financing of GEF project on phasing out mercury measuring devices in health care.

The Public Procurement and Disposal Authority (PPDA/NEMA/150) in a letter dated 27/10/21 committed to co-financing the GEF10716: phasing mercury measuring devices in healthcare in Uganda. For example, in light of its mandate and functions, PPDA offered to support the project for phasing out mercury measuring devices in health care by way of provision of technical guidance and sensitization of the implementing Entities on the application of the PPDA Act, regulations and guidelines in procuring alternative devices, and disposing the mercury measuring devices.

Ministry of Health (MoH) in a letter (Ref: ADM.137/317/01) dated 22/10/21 committed co-financing the GEF10716: phasing mercury measuring devices in healthcare in Uganda an amount of USD 2,000,000 for a period of five years of the project period (2022-2026). This will be through human resource costs associated with taking measures of among others phasing out the procurement and manufacture of mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers in line with WHO recommendations and related provisions of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; disseminating knowledge on phasing-out of mercury added medical measuring devices, including their manufacture and procurement and ensuring management of mercury-containing medical waste in an environmentally sound manner, from storage to disposal.

On behalf of Governnent of Uganda, NEMA committed its self in a letter dated 3rd November 2021 (Ref: NEMA/ 9.5.5) to United Nations – Environment-Nairobi, Kenya, to co-finance the project aimed at phasing out mercury measuring devices in health care over the full five years of the project period (2022-2026) an amount of 1,000,000 as in-kind support through Office accommodation, facilities, equipment and human resource costs along the national stakeholder value chain associated with taking appropriate measures of not allowing, the manufacture, import or export of mercury measuring devices in healthcare after their phase-out date and ensuring management of mercury-containing medical waste in an environmentally sound manner, from storage to disposal.

The Government of Uganda has facilitated technical staff from NEMA, Kyambogo University and Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development to participate in Minamata COP1, COP2 and COP3. An approximate amount of USD 57794.78 was spent on this activity.

The Government of Uganda has facilitated technical staff from NEMA, Kyambogo University to participate at the Africa regional meetings in preparation for COP2 and COP3. An approximate amount of USD 16786.05 was spent on this activity.

The Government of Uganda has facilitated the titled “The National Environment Management Authority developed an Ordinance against mercury use in Buhweju District. The Ordinance is called “The Local Governments (Buhweju District) (Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Management) Ordinance, 2017”. An approximate amount of USD 3000 was spent on this activity.

Please provide comments, if any.
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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
Through annual subscriptions. For example USD 165 (in 2019) and USD 248 (in 2020).

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
Uganda is a developing country.

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}

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
Uganda is a developing country

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

◉ Yes

○ No

Please specify
A. Support to Government:

Uganda received support from GEF through UNEP to undertake the following projects:

i. Development of Minamata Initial Assessments project in Africa

ii. Regional project on development of National Action Plans for Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining

B. Support to NGOs:

Non-Governmental Organizations in Uganda have been supported by developed countries to undertake the following:

i. The National Association of Practicing Environmentalists (NAPE) has promoted mercury free methodologies among artisanal small-scale gold miners through establishing demonstration sites in Kassanda District from 2019 to April 2021. Also other miners from Buhweju, Namayingo and Mubende have been involved in these trainings. A Mercury free (gravity concentration) demonstration site was established at Kayonza, Kassanda district and miners continue to learn on the safer alternatives installed at the demonstration site. Kayonza mining site has about 2000 miners. Mining communities have appreciated the dangers associated with mercury use. This was evidenced from their demand for mercury free alternatives during our different engagements. This was under the Small grants program of GEF-UNDP. Mindset change towards acceptability of alternatives to mercury use is still so low among the miners and this somehow affects the efforts of the mercury free campaign activities.

ii. NAPE developed and disseminated awareness raising materials on the impacts of mercury use on the environment and information on the alternatives being promoted in Kassanda, Mubende, Buhweju, Namayingo,Busia Districts from 2018-June 2021. This increased appreciation of the dangers of mercury use and the need to shift to safer alternatives. This was observed after many miners called for more materials and requesting NAPE to organize trainings in this regard as well introducing them to many alternatives. Because of limited funds NAPE was not able to print more materials and translate them into many local languages. This activity was funded by UNEP through Ministry of Water and Environment and NEMA under the project titled “Strengthening National Institutional Capacity in Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste in Uganda". The overall project objective is to strengthen national institutional capacity to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the regulatory framework for sound management of chemicals in Uganda.

iii. In 2021, the Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health (UNACOH) formed mercury free/mercury phase out committees in Buhweju and Busia Districts. Two committees of 15 people each were formed. This was funded by the Government of Denmark through DIALOGOS.

iv. From December 2020 to April 2021 and in October 2021, UNACOH trained ASGMs on mercury free technique of gold extraction in districts of Busia and Buhweju Districts. Two hundred forty eight (248) ASGMs were trained. The challenge is availability of rich ore. The activity was funded by Government of Denmark through DIALOGOS.

v. Biovision-Africa (BiVA) is working to create awareness raising on mercury pollution in ASGM sector including promoting mercury-free gold processing methodology using borax in ASGM communities in three districts in Uganda namely; Buhweju, Busia and Amdati. It is doing this in collaboration with the Uganda National Association of Community and Occupational Health (UNACOH), with support from Dialogos. Dialogos is a Danish organization that promotes mercury-free gold mining technologies worldwide; demonstration facilities to train artisanal gold miners on mercury-free gold processing practices.

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
In area of Artisanal and Small Scale Gold mining. For example construction of demonstration sites where use of gravitational methods and borax is applied in Districts of Busia, Namayingo, Buhweju and Kassanda. Donation of centrifuges to miner groups in Busia District.

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

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▼ 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.
1. Proposed measure 1: Promoting the development and implementation of strategies and programmes to identify and protect populations at risk, particularly vulnerable populations

i. The NAP on ASGM, 2019 contains a Public Health Strategy centering around reviewing and implementing a Public Health Strategy on exposure, diagnosis and treatment of mercury related complications in ASGM by 2024 through conducting a situational analysis of public health concerns in the ASGM sector which will facilitate building the capacity of health care workers and village health teams on the health effects of mercury, diagnosis and treatment of the same and equipping health facilities with diagnostic tools.

ii.The NAP on ASGM, 2019 contains a strategy for preventing exposure of vulnerable populations, particularly children, women of child-bearing age and nursing mothers from mercury used in ASGM sector by 2024 through undertaking community outreach programmes to emphasise the risks vulnerable populations face in and around mine sites; introducing alternative income generating activities to vulnerable groups to reduce their exposure to mercury; facilitating the formulation of policies that protect vulnerable populations from exposure to mercury emissions and releases and implementing labour and mining regulations prohibiting child labour in ASGM.

iii. Development of technical conditions following reviews of Environmental Impact Assessments reports covers retraction of mercury and mercury compound use especially for mining projects.

2. Proposed measure 2: Adopting science-based health guidelines relating to the exposure to mercury

and mercury compounds

i.No. Measure not yet undertaken

ii. Proposed measure 3: Setting targets for mercury exposure reduction, where appropriate

iii. In ASGM sector. For example, the NAP on ASGM 2019-To reduce the emissions, releases and risks of exposure to mercury by the ASGM sector by 70% by 2024 through the elimination of worst practices in ASGM (these include whole ore amalgamation, open burning of amalgam, burning of amalgam in residential areas and cyanide leaching of mercury contaminated tailings), the promotion of mercury capture technologies, and the adoption of mercury-free gold processing techniques.

3. Proposed measure 4: Public education, with the participation of public health and other involved sectors

i. The Directorate of Geological Survey and Mines under Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, carries out quarterly Sensitization and training on Occupational Safety Health and Environment (OSHE) best practices at Licensed mine sites by ASM communities and stakeholders trained in best practices for OSHE at the mine site including management of mercury. Implementation challenges center on Human resources, financial resources, Skills (Training skills and use of mercury-free methods in gold extraction) and technology (new and innovative mercury-free gold extraction methods as well as training and skilling equipment like demonstration sites, projectors, portable laptops) gaps, Equipment gap. Activity funded by government of Uganda.

ii. In July, 2020, UNACOH carried out awareness raising about harmful effects of mercury among local leaders in Busia District and Buhweju District. Over 100 Leaders attended. It was funded by Government of Denmark through DIALOGOS.

iii. UNACOH raised awareness raising about harmful effects of mercury among ASGMs; a 1030 ASGMs attended. It was funded by Government of Denmark through DIALOGOS.

4. Proposed measure 5: Promote the development and implementation of science-based educational and preventive programmes on occupational exposure to mercury and mercury compounds

No. Measure not yet undertaken

5. Proposed measure 6: Promote appropriate health-care services for prevention, treatment and care for populations affected by the exposure to mercury or mercury compounds

No. Measure not yet undertaken

6. Proposed measure 7: Establish and strengthen, as appropriate, the institutional and health professional capacities for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health risks related to the exposure to mercury and mercury compounds

No. Measure not yet undertaken

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.
Through public outreach activities, IEC materials by Government and NGOs

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
General information sharing:

i. On 21st September 2021, NEMA presented on “social and economic considerations for adoption of non-mercury processing technologies by miners” during the Minamata Online Season 2: Mining without Mercury: How Technology Can Support the Transition to Mercury-Free ASGM Sector.

ii. On 17 June 2021 NEMA presented on “women's empowerment in the ASGM sector in Uganda” during the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership webinar on Gender mainstreaming under the theme “Integrating Gender Dimensions into National Action Plans for Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining Webinar on Gender mainstreaming”.

iii. On 30 November 2020 NEMA presented on “regional cooperation and commitment towards reducing human contamination from mercury”. This was during the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership webinar under the theme “mercury in skin-lightening products: towards the 2020 deadline that was organized by UNEP in cooperation with WHO. The webinar explored issues of mercury skin lightening products, looking into adverse effects of the cosmetics, sharing information and discussing some of the practices, experiences as well as challenges faced by countries and other stakeholders in meeting the 2020 deadline for phase out under the Minamata Convention.

Information on the reduction or elimination of the production, use,

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
a) Measures on health and environment effects of mercury and mercury compounds and alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds

NGO interventions

From 2018 to 2021, the National Association of Practicing Environmentalists developed Information Education and Communication materials on the dangers of using mercury added products and arguing the public to be conscious of the content of the products they use on daily basis including creams especially whitening creams and pesticides used in agriculture. It was a national campaign on raising awareness on sound management of chemicals and wastes in Uganda. Funding was from GEF through UNEP. Ministry of water and Environment and NEMA were the Executing Agencies. Further awareness is carried out on NAPE's community green radio and their social media pages.

NAPE organising awareness raising workshops on the impacts of mercury use on human health and the environment. March to June 2021. This activity was funded by UNEP through MWE and NEMA under the project titled "Strengthening National Institutional Capacity in Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste in Uganda". The overall project objective is to strengthen national institutional capacity to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the regulatory framework for sound management of chemicals in Uganda.

NAPE Facilitated media engagement. Journalists from the Community Green Radio and print media were facilitated to have interactions with the gold miners in Kassanda-Mubende on the challenges associated the mining activity and mercury use and this was covered on the radio and print media. Increased coverage of the dangers associated with the use of mercury in gold mining on the NAPE Community Green Radio. There is low interest among the journalists to cover issues related to mercury use. This was funded under the Small grants program GEF-UNDP. Radio talk shows on mercury pollution were also organized on the community green radio based in Kiboga District.

Biovision-Africa (BiVA's): Campaign on illegal trade in mercury-laden cosmetics and cosmetic products: Since 2017 BiVA has been collaborating with EEB/ZMWG on Skin lightening creams campaign. Has been engaging with e-commerce platforms in Uganda on trade in illegal skin-lightening cosmetics, and online engagement with enforcement agencies to establish apparent enforcement gaps with a view to influence relevant policy.

Biovision-Africa (BiVA's): Campaign against toxic lighting system: BiVA has been collaborating with the Clean Lighting Coalition (CLiC), a global partnership to capture the health and environmental benefits of eliminating mercury-based lighting described under the Minamata Convention on Mercury. BiVA has been collecting and compiling data on the types of lighting compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) available for sale on the market in Uganda. The information will contribute to CLiC's Advocacy pledge to support the accelerated phase-out of toxic mercury-based fluorescent lighting by 2024 and 2025 respectively, in line with the proposed Amendment to Minamata Convention during CoP4.

Interventions from private sector

In August 2020, Kampala City Traders Association, held a meeting at JBK plaza on Luwum Street with people trading in cosmetics and other products with mercury components; held media campaigns through radio talk shows (Eddoboozi ly'omusuubuzi on smart 24 television & Radio sapentia); use of Leaflets and flyers. Similar awareness sessions are being held on Eddoboozi ly'omusuubuzi.

In April 2020, Kampala City Traders Association, held sensitization meetings about dangers paused by mercury hrough Smart 24 TV, Metro FM. The exercise on going.
In September 2020, Kampala City Traders Association carried out public information, awareness and education through Media campaigns, leaflets and flyers. Exercise on going.

b) Results of research, development and monitoring activities

NEMA carried out public awareness (through media, documentary on ASGM and face to face meetings) on dangers of mercury use on health and environment.

An assessment of Occupational, Environment and other Impacts from use of Mercury in Artisanal Small – Scale Gold Mining in Uganda was undertaken under the National Baseline Overview study of 2019.

In order to build synergies with the health assessment studies in the ASGM sector, a collaborative partnership between NEMA and UNACOH was formed under the NBO study of 2019 to carry out a Human biomonitoring using blood and to study the total mercury concentration levels for ASG miners.

The study was conducted in six districts with active ASGM in the four regions where gold deposits are found for example Kicuzi and Rukiri mining sites in Ibanda and Katenga I and II in Buhweju (Western Region), at Lubaali and Kitumbi mining sites in Mubende (Central Region), at Chepkararat and Cheptakol mining sites in Amudat (Karamoja Region), at Tiira, Syanyonja mining sites in Busia and Buheere and Nakudi in Namayingo (Eastern Region). Study participants were selected from ASGMs found working at two mining sites in the four and additional two making it six mining districts in Uganda.
Although the results indicated that most miners in all districts had been exposed to mercury, the results for Amudat District indicated insignificant results for mercury in blood and urine. This could be due to the fact that mercury has only been recently introduced to Amudat (about two years before this assessment was made) and mercury use has not spread in all the mining sites. Another explanation could be that the samples were affected by the extremely hot temperatures in Karamoja Region combined with the long distance to and from Karamoja to DGAL in Kampala.

c) Public outreach strategy
The NAP on ASGM of 2019, contains an Outreach Plan.

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
Develop and improve:

i. Inventories of use, consumption, and anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds

Undertaken during the national minamata initial assessments study.

ii. Modelling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations and in environmental media, including biotic media such as fish, marine mammals, sea turtles and birds, as well as collaboration in the collection and exchange of relevant and appropriate samples

Not undertaken

iii. Assessments of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, in addition to social, economic and cultural impacts, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations

No undertaken

iv. Information on the environmental cycle, transport (including long-range transport and deposition), transformation and fate of mercury and mercury compounds in a range of ecosystems, taking appropriate account of the distinction between anthropogenic and natural emissions and releases of mercury and of re-mobilization of mercury from historic deposition;

Not undertaken

Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products

Not undertaken

Information and research on the technical and economic availability of mercury-free products and processes and on best available

Busitema University in Uganda has carried out research of use of cassava leaf extract to extract gold.

Techniques and best environmental practices to reduce and monitor emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

Not undertaken

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)

Limited funding to enable various national stakeholders along the mercury product supply/ value chain to implement their mandates/obligations.

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL - ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

The reporting format is okay

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