

Submission by Senegal

Dear Secretariat of the Minamata Convention,

Further to your invitation, I am pleased to submit key information based on the implementation of the Specific International Programme (SIP) in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Togo, focusing on Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention.

The SIP implementation has generated significant field-based evidence regarding the trade of mercury and mercury-added products in West Africa. Across the three countries, data collected from customs, regulatory authorities and stakeholders indicate the existence of transboundary flows of mercury through informal and, in some cases, illicit supply chains. These flows are often characterized by undeclared shipments, mislabeling, and weak traceability mechanisms.

The findings suggest that the current regulatory and control systems face structural limitations. Despite strengthened capacities through the SIP — including training of more than 200 control and laboratory agents and the establishment of a regional database — enforcement remains challenged by limited detection capacities, fragmented coordination mechanisms, and the absence of an integrated traceability system.

Importantly, the evidence highlights that mercury circulation in the region cannot be effectively addressed at the national level alone. The dynamics observed point to broader international supply chains and underline the need for enhanced cooperation between Parties, as well as stronger alignment between environmental, customs and security actors.

These observations confirm that the effectiveness of Article 3 implementation depends not only on national regulatory frameworks, but also on the establishment of operational mechanisms at regional and international levels.

Based on this experience, the following key actions are proposed for consideration by the Expert Group:

- Development of a regional and international mercury traceability system;
- Strengthening operational cooperation between Parties, including customs and enforcement agencies;
- Establishment of an early warning and information-sharing mechanism;
- Enhanced collaboration with relevant international bodies to address transboundary illegal trade;
- Integration and interoperability of national mercury databases.

This contribution is grounded in practical implementation experience and aims to support the Expert Group in developing realistic, enforceable and context-adapted solutions.

I remain at your disposal should further details or technical inputs be required.

Please accept, Dear Secretariat, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr Pathé DIEYE, PhD

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