INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party
Eswatini (Kingdom of)

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited
21 September 2016

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party
16 August 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution
Ministry of Tourism & Environmental Affairs

Title of National Focal Point
Ms.

Name of National Focal Point
Mabuza Khangeziwe

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khange@hotmail.com

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ps_tourism@gov.sz
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

a3_subsection

Full name of the institution
Eswatini Environment Authority

Title of contact officer
Ms

Name of contact officer
Bianca Dlamini

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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
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

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**ba34_subsection**

*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.

Refer to the Mercury Initial Assessment Report for Eswatini attached SWZ_3.3.pdf

ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information, for example on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks and sources.

(Empty)

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
- No
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

{Empty}

**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 no, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

- Yes
- No

If yes, for which products (please list)?

- Batteries, except for button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%
- Switches and relays, except very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge, switch or relay
- Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner
- Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (b) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp
- High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes
- Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays
- Cosmetics (with mercury content above 1ppm), including skin lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe...
substitute preservatives are available

Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics

The following non–electronic measuring devices except non–electronic measuring devices installed in large–scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement: (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

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

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 no, has there been an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product that demonstrates environmental or health benefits? Has the party provided to the secretariat, as appropriate, information on any such product?

☐ Yes
☐ No

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

{Empty}

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

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

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I do not know
5.2. Are measures in place to not allow the use of mercury or mercury compounds in manufacturing processes listed in Part I of Annex B after the phase-out date specified in that Annex for the individual process?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not applicable (do not have these facilities)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACETALDEHYDE PRODUCTION IN WHICH MERCURY OR MERCURY COMPOUNDS ARE USED AS A CATALYST</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not applicable (do not have these facilities)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VINYL CHLORIDE MONOMER PRODUCTION</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.4. Is there any use of mercury or mercury compounds in a facility using the manufacturing processes listed in Annex B that did not exist prior to the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- Yes
- No

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

- Yes
- No

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

{Empty}

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

7.1. Have steps been taken to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, the use of mercury and mercury compounds in, and the emissions and releases to the environment of mercury from, artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing subject to article 7 within your territory?

- Yes
- No

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

If yes, please provide information on the steps.

Use of mercury in this sector in mainly by illegal miners; illegal mining is rife at the old mine sites (adits).

Measures undertaken to reduce, eliminate use of mercury in this sector;

a) The country has developed an National Action Plan for the ASGM Sector with the objective of eliminating worst practices from this sector including the use of mercury.
b) Strengthening of border line security patrols by the Army. Army camps were set up in two strategic points where illegal mining is rife. The illegal mining is a trans-boundary matter as the sites are located along the borderline with our neighboring country. This intervention is meant to counter the cross-border trade of mercury used in the ASGM Sector.
c) Mining and prospecting rights have been granted to two mining sites in a quest to drive out the illegal miners who use mercury. There are two (2) companies which have been granted mining and prospecting rights at the old mine site where the illegal mining is rife.
d) There is one (1) operational mine at one hot spot for illegal mining and the mine is using cyanide for gold processing as opposed to mercury use.
e) The country is currently reviewing its mining legislation with the assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat Ocean and Natural Resources Advisory Division (ONR). The process has produced five (5) drafts Regulations.
   (i) Draft Diamond Regulations Schedule,
   (ii) Draft Model Mining Agreements,
   (iii) Draft Mines and Minerals Regulations,
   (iv) Draft Mines and Minerals (use of explosives),
   (v) Draft Mines and Minerals (Health and Safety Regulations).
   This intervention is meant to regulate the mining sector thereby, enabling monitoring which will help in the elimination of mercury from this sector.

Despite all the national efforts aimed at reducing use of mercury in the ASGM sector this practice remains rife and the use of mercury is still abundant. This is mainly because of porous borders with neighboring countries, which exacerbates the trade of mercury. Regional collaboration would assist in curbing this practice.

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?

☐ 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

SWZ_7.4.pdf

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

☐ Yes
☐ No

Please provide information
Eswatini is collaborating with the Basel Convention Regional Centre – Stockholm Convention Regional Centre South Africa (Africa Institute)English speaking countries (Africa Institute), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to develop an ASGM Sector Review and a National Action Plan for the ASGM Sector.
ART. 8: EMISSIONS

8.1. Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (c) of article 8.

For each of those source categories describe the measures in place, including the effectiveness of such measures, to implement the requirements of paragraph 4 of article 8.

☐ Coal-fired power plants
☐ Coal-fired industrial boilers
☐ Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
☐ Waste incineration facilities
☐ Cement clinker production facilities

Has the party required the use of best available techniques or best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) to control and where feasible reduce emissions for new sources no later than 5 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Please explain
• There are no new sources

Attach relevant documentation
{Empty}

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}

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**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**

According to the Mercury Initial Assessment Report (2022), there are 38 coal-fired boilers in Eswatini ranging in size from 0.05 to 0.25 MW, with 1.1% of urban areas using coal stoves and 1.9% of urban areas using coal–fired stoves in Eswatini. Most, approximately 80%, of Eswatini industrial boilers have cyclones for the control of particulate emissions. These are typically the sugar mills, distilleries, and manufacturers of export goods who must be ISO 14001 compliant. Approximately 20% of coal–fired boilers in hospitals and other institutions do not have cyclones or bag filters.

- The Energy Policy of 2018 has a target of achieving 50% use of renewable energy including biomass by the year 2030
- The policy promotes the “waste–to–energy” strategies by local industries
- Local industries have recently engaged in reducing coal burning into biomass energy use.
- The country in implementing a BAT/BEP under the energy sector.

These efforts, although not directly aimed at reducing mercury emissions, but they significantly contribute to the reduction of mercury emissions.

**Relevant Documents**

- Air pollution control regulations, 2010
- Waste Regulations, 2000
- Energy Policy of 2018

**Progress**

According to the Mercury Initial Assessment Report (2022), coal imports have been decreasing since the turn of the millennium (256,000 t/yr in 2000; 126,000t/yr in 2012).

- The sugar industry has reduced the use of coal by co–generating with biomass and wood chips
- Forestry industry has changed from coal to wood chips
- The use of biomass has been a cost–effective strategy for the industry
**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**

(Empty)

**Progress**

(Empty)

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**WASTE INCINERATION FACILITIES**

- A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
- Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources
- Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions
- Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources

**Measures**

According to the Mercury Initial Assessment Report (2022), there are incinerators used for the treatment of Health Care Risk Care from Health Facilities but there is no municipal and hazardous waste incineration in Eswatini. As of May 2017, there were 266 health facilities in Eswatini as follows: 8 government hospitals, 5 health centers, 253 clinics. According to the 2016 Healthcare Waste Management Performance Report of the Ministry of Health, there are fourteen (14) licensed incinerators used for the treatment and disposal of infectious wastes distributed in the four (4) regions of Eswatini. All the incinerators are diesel–fired with no add–on emission controls.

**Progress**

The Mercury Initial Assessment Report (2022), indicate that efforts made by most Eswatini health facilities to reduce the use of mercury–containing equipment, it is likely to be closer to the bottom end of this range. Thus, the outputs to air will be the same as the inputs.

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**CEMENT CLINKER PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

- A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources
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?
Mon, 03/29/2021 – 00:00

Please indicate where this inventory is available
The Mercury Initial Assessment Report for Eswatini (2022)

Attach
- SWZ_8.3.pdf

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.

According to the Mercury Initial Assessment Report for Eswatini (2022), the Mercury inventory of releases in Eswatini was developed in accordance with the guidance provided in the UNEP Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases, which aims to assist countries to build a knowledge base that identifies the sources of mercury releases in their country and estimates or quantifies the releases.
This was done in conjunction with the associated Guideline for Inventory Level 1, version 1.3, April 2015 and associated UNEP reporting templates. Analyses for mercury content was performed using Level 2 and report methodologies and results presented in accordance with the requirements of these toolkits.

**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

If yes, has the party submitted its national plan to the Conference of the Parties under this article no later than 4 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Please explain

The MIA Report which contains the National Action Plan is attached

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

{Empty}

**ART. 9: RELEASES**

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

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] I do not know

Please indicate the measures taken to address releases from relevant sources and the effectiveness of those measures.

According to the mercury initial assessment report for Eswatini (2022), releases to water were estimated at 30 kg Hg/yr. The main sources included the use and disposal of mercury added products such as thermometers, gauges, laboratory chemicals. Other sources are primary metal production especially artisanal and small-scale gold mining as well as waste deposit/landfill and wastewater treatment.

Releases to land were estimated at 389 kg Hg/yr. The primary source category is the informal dumping of waste 183 kg Hg/yr. The use and disposal of mercury added products also represents significant sources of mercury releases to land amounting to 130 kg Hg/yr. The total amount of mercury released to land from the burial of individuals with dental amalgam is estimated at 45 kg Hg/yr.

Releases to other output pathways through products, general waste and sector-specific waste totaled 161 kg Hg/yr. The major contributor to this category is the use and disposal of mercury added products, including the disposal of items such as thermometers, laboratory and medical equipment,
switches and relays. In addition, there were small contributions from extraction and use of fuels/energy sources 5 kg Hg/yr and waste deposit/landfill and wastewater treatment 4 kg Hg/yr.

Measures taken to address mercury releases

(i) Compilation of an inventory of mercury release sources (including quantification).
(ii) The Water Pollution Control Regulations 2010 prohibits the release of effluent containing more than 0.001 mg/L of mercury.
(iii) According to the Waste Regulations 2000, mercury containing waste is classified as hazardous waste hence cannot be disposed in any landfill. Eswatini does not have capacity to dispose such. Mercury containing waste is therefore transported to South Africa for recovery and recycling.

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

When was the inventory last updated?
2021–03–29

Please indicate where this inventory is available
The MIA Report which contains the National Action Plan is attached.

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

{Empty}

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

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

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

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

{Empty}
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.

According to the Waste Regulations, 2000 and the Environment Management Act 2002, mercury waste or waste from mercury containing material/articles is classified as hazardous (special) waste and cannot be disposed at the general waste disposal facilities.

There is no hazardous waste disposal facility in the country, but we are party to the Basel Convention therefore, mercury containing waste is exported to South Africa for recovery and recycling.

According to the Mercury Initial Assessment Report, 2022, releases to land is estimated to a total of 389 kg Hg/yr with the primary source category being the informal dumping of waste which is reported to be at 183 kg Hg/yr and the use and disposal of mercury added products is also reported to represent significant sources of mercury releases to land amounting to 130 kg Hg/yr.

Further the Mercury Initial Assessment Report, 2022, states that the total amount of mercury released to land from the burial of individuals with dental amalgam is estimated at 45 kg Hg/yr and from the Level 2 Inventory, the total amount obtained is reported at 1,031 kg Hg/yr with the major contributors being waste deposition/landfilling and waste water treatment (386 kg Hg/yr), other intentional product/process use (260 kg Hg/yr) and extraction and use of fuels/energy sources (245 kg Hg/yr).

According to the provisions of the draft National Integrated Waste Management and Pollution Prevention & Control Strategy, hazardous waste including mercury waste or waste from mercury containing material/articles such as fluorescent light tubes is not to be accepted in any of the licensed and approved was disposal facilities (landfills and controlled dumpsites). The generator of the waste is responsible for the management (safe storage and disposal) of the waste.

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

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

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

{Empty}

12.1. Has the party endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory?
Please elaborate
The country has identified and assessed sites contaminated by mercury. Possible strategies have also been developed for decontamination of contaminated sites. Further work on this matter is required.

The country does not have a hazardous waste disposal facility therefore the possible contaminated sites could be the landfills and the controlled dumpsites as well as the unlicensed/uncontrolled dumpsites. However there has not been any study aimed at assessing the extent of pollution resulting from the disposal facilities. Furthermore, in many of the disposal facilities (landfills and controlled dumpsites as well as the illegal dumpsite), there is no system to take the record of waste that is brought into the facility. A waste characterization pitot exercise was done in 2021 to ascertain the composition of the waste that is disposed of at the disposal facilities. It is envisaged that the exercise will be continued after as inspectors from the municipalities were trained on waste characterization as training of trainers.

According to the Mercury Initial Assessment Report, 2022, the mercury releases associated with products, general waste and sector-specific waste, 161 kg Hg/yr is released with the major contributor being the use and disposal of mercury added products, including the disposal of items such as thermometers, laboratory and medical equipment, switches and relays which are likely to be disposed on land thereby contaminating it with mercury.

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

{Empty}
Please specify
Eswatini is a developing country hence unable to contribute.

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
Eswatini is a developing country hence unable to contribute.

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

{Empty}

▼ ART. 14: CAPACITY-BUILDING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

14.1. Has the party cooperated to provide capacity-building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Please specify
Eswatini does not have the capacity to contribute to this requirement.

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

☐ Yes
☐ No

Please specify
The country has received Technical Assistance to develop the Mercury Initial Assessment and the National Action Plan for the ASGM Sector.

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}
ART. 16: HEALTH ASPECTS

16.1. Have measures been taken to provide information to the public on exposure to mercury in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 16?

- Yes
- No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.
(a) The Kingdom of Eswatini through the Project “Developing the national action plan for the ASGM sector in Eswatini”, has identified populations at risk of mercury exposure (refer to the National Action Plan for the elimination of mercury use in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector, 2022);
(b) Based on the findings of the ASGM sector overview a National Action Plan for the ASGM sector has been developed and it includes a public health strategy and interventions for protecting populations at risk from the harmful impacts of mercury;
(c) An awareness raising strategy for the country for mercury has been developed and is progressively being implemented as part of the Eswatini Environment Authority’s countrywide awareness raising programme.

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.
(a) The Kingdom of Eswatini through the Project “Developing the national action plan for the ASGM sector in Eswatini”, has identified populations at risk of mercury exposure (refer to the National Action Plan for the elimination of mercury use in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector, 2022);
(b) Based on the findings of the ASGM sector overview a National Action Plan for the ASGM sector has been developed and it includes a public health strategy and interventions for protecting populations at risk from the harmful impacts of mercury;
(c) The Ministry of Education & Training in Eswatini has instructed all schools to phase out mercury containing measuring devices such as thermometers as well as mercury containing chemicals like...
Fehling’s solution and transition to safer alternatives. This initiative is to be included in the soon to be revised National Science, Mathematics and Technology Education policy in order to prevent exposure of school going children and teachers to mercury;

d) The Ministry of Health has phased out mercury containing thermometers in public health facilities and replaced them with digital thermometers.

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

{Empty}

**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

{Empty}

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

{Empty}

**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) An awareness raising strategy for the country for mercury has been developed and is progressively being implemented as part of the Eswatini Environment Authority’s countrywide awareness raising programme (see the national action plan for ASGM sector for Eswatini,2022).

(i) Information, education and communication material on the harmful impacts of mercury and sources have been developed and are continuously distributed countrywide in–line with the Eswatini Environment Authority awareness raising programme. Some of the activities have included road shows, radio programmes and distribution of IEC material targeting the vulnerable populations including farmers and ASGM communities;

(ii) An initiative for mainstreaming mercury issues in the curriculum for schools has been initiated and is currently on going. Some of the activities include giving lectures, distribution of awareness material and donating mercury free thermometers.
**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

The country has developed the Mercury Initial Assessment report and the National Action Plan for the ASGM Sector.

**COMMENTS**

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

(a) Lack of Financial and Technical resources to implement the objectives of the Convention and the national action plans; The country has not been able to adequately address the following articles of the Convention;
   (i) Article 4 on Mercury added products; Upon accession to this Convention, Eswatini requested for an exemption to the requirements of this article. At the end of this exemption period the country is expected to meet the requirements as specified. In this regard a comprehensive inventory for mercury added products and accompanying action plan is required. Both financial and technical resources are required to accomplish this task.
   (ii) Article 7 on Artisanal and small scale gold mining; Under this article Eswatini has developed a National Action Plan for eliminating use of mercury from the ASGM Sector. The country requires both financial and technical resources in order to implement the plan. The other requirement is that the plan should be revised every three years which will also require the aforementioned resources. There is also the need for a regional project to curb mercury trade within the region which has been identified as one the threats on the effective implementation of the convention.
   (iii) Article 8 on Emissions; On this article the country is expected to have a dedicated Action Plan setting out clear objectives and target for meeting all requirements. There is also a need to revise the air pollution control regulations to align with the requirements of the Convection. These activities will require both financial and technical resources.
   (iv) Article 9 on Releases; On this article the country is expected to have a dedicated Action Plan setting out clear objectives and target for meeting all requirements. The country has not been able to develop a national action plan to adequately address this article, especially paragraph 5. These activities will require both financial and technical resources.
   (v) Article 11 on Mercury Waste; The global technical guidelines on mercury waste still need to be
domesticated. The country requires financial and technical resources to customize and validate the
guidelines into national processes.
(vi) Article 12 on Contaminated Sites; The country requires financial and technical resources to develop
and implement the National Action Plan for this article.
(vii) Article 16 on Health Aspects; The country requires financial and technical resources to develop and
implement the National Action Plan for this article.
(viii) Article 19 on Research Development and Monitoring; The country requires financial and technical
resources to develop and implement the National Action Plan for this article.

(b) Insufficient Technical Assistance and technology transfer
(c) Difficulty in having access on cheaper and effective technologies for gold processing
(d) The legal framework does not fully address all the provisions of the Minamata Convention (MC)
(e) Post COVID-19 pandemic effects on programmes.
(f) Lack of detailed Geo–scientific data (geological information on deposits) that will inform the decision
of formalization of the sector.
(g) The ASGM Sector is both illegal and informal thus not regulated making it difficult to access this
sector for monitoring purposes.

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

Improvements on the functionality on the online reporting tool.