2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 30 December 2025

REPORTING PERIOD:
1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

▼ 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

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Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs

Title of Contact Officer
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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

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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 – primary mercury mining with available data
- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
- ◉ No

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 – primary mercury mining with available data
- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
- ◉ No

3.3: (A) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory?

3.3: (A) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory?

- ○ Yes – with new data* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
- ○ Yes – endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
- ◉ No

If the party answered no to the question, please explain.

The country has not endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds between the last reporting period (2023) and the current reporting period (2025) due to constraints in financial and human resources.

3.3: (B) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual sources of mercury-supply-generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

3.3:(B) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual sources of mercury-supply-generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

- ○ Yes - with new data* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
- ○ Yes - endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
- ◉ No

If the party answered no to the question, please explain.
The country has not endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds between the last reporting period (2023) and the current reporting period (2025) due to constraints in financial and human resources.

3.4: Has the party determined that it has excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No - has determined it has no excess mercury
- ◉ No - has not made a determination

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 - no export took place
- ☐ No - consent was not given

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 this article

Please streamline the guidance document for this article to improve clarity.

▼ 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)?

- [x] Batteries, except for button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%
- [x] Button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%
- [x] 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
- [x] 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, except those used for research and development purposes
- [x] Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner
- [x] Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are > 30 watts
- [x] Compact fluorescent lamps with an integrated ballast (CFL.i) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner
- [x] Compact fluorescent lamps with a non-integrated ballast (CFL.ni) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner
- [x] 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
- [x] Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 10 mg per lamp; (b) Halophosphate phosphor > 40 watts
- [x] Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg/lamp; (b) Triband phosphor ≥ 60 watts with a mercury content not exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (c) Triband phosphor ≥ 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp
- [x] Non-linear fluorescent lamps (NFLs) (e.g., U-bend and circular) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor, all wattages;
- [x] (b) Halophosphate phosphor, all wattages
- [x] High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes
- [x] Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays: (a) Short length (≤ 500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 3.5 mg per lamp; (b) Medium length (> 500 mm and ≤ 1,500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (c) Long length (> 1,500 mm) with mercury content exceeding 13 mg per lamp
- [x] Cold cathode fluorescent lamps (CCFL) and external electrode fluorescentlamps (EEFL) of all lengths for electronic displays, not included in the listing directly above
- [x] 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
- [x] Cosmetics, 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

☑ Strain gauges to be used in plethysmographs;

☑ The following electrical and electronic measuring devices except thoseinstalled in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement, where no suitable mercury-free alternative is available:(a) Melt pressure transducers, melt pressure transmitters and melt pressuresensors

☑ Mercury vacuum pumps

☑ Tyre balancers and wheel weights

☑ Photographic film and paper

☑ Propellant for satellites and spacecraft

4.3: (A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

4.3:(A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A 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.
The country is currently implementing the GEF-8 uPOPs Project, which aims to achieve the environmentally sound management of unintentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (uPOPs). Key activities within the healthcare sector component include:
1. Establishing Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) of mercury in the healthcare sector.
2. Conducting training focused on mercury management, specifically concerning mercury-containing equipment.
3. Implementing sustainable alternatives to mercury-containing equipment.
4. Establishing facilities for the permanent storage of mercury waste

4.3: (B) If the amendment to annex A adopted in decision MC-4/3 has entered into force for the party, has the party (please check the appropriate box below) taken relevant measures:

4.3:(B) If the amendment to annex A adopted in decision MC-4/3 has entered into force for the party, has the party (please check the appropriate box below) taken relevant measures:

○ Yes

◉ No

○ Not applicable

If the party answered no to question 4.3(B) above, please explain
The country has not identified cost-effective alternatives for mercury-containing dental amalgam yet.

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 for it under article 4?

○ Yes

○ No

◉ No - not applicable (do not have facilities assembling products using mercury-added products)

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 – no action taken
- ○ No – an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product demonstrates benefits to human health or the environment

If the party answered no – no action taken, please explain.
The country has not undertaken any assessment on the manufacture and distribution in commerce of mercury-added products in this reporting period.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

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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
- ○ 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?

CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

○ No

◉ Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

○ Yes

○ 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

◉ No

5.5: Has the party discouraged the development of any facility 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 – no action taken

○ No – the party demonstrated to the Conference of the Parties the significant environmental and health benefits of the manufacturing process and that there are no technically and economically feasible mercury-free alternatives available providing such benefits.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

In instances where the initial question is inapplicable, specifically regarding non-manufacturing parties, a single response is sufficient to satisfy the requirements of this article.

▼ 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;
1. The country is implementing the National Action Plan for the ASGM Sector (2022-2025), through conducting mercury assessment in water and sediments in ASGM sites.
2. In addition to the Mining and prospecting rights granted in 2021, the country has granted Mining rights to two more mining companies in 2025 in a quest to drive out the illegal miners who use mercury.
3. The review of the Mines and Minerals Act No.4 of 2011 is still ongoing.

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

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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?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Please provide information
The government has established a National Multi-Stakeholder Technical Advisory Committee for the Minamata Convention on Mercury. In collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources, this committee is currently conducting monitoring of mercury levels in river systems and sediments at Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sites.

Please provide information
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Part E - Additional comments on this article

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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)

No (please explain)
No new sources of mercury emissions have been identified or established within the reporting period.

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
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
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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 Waste 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 government 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. There are an additional six(6) licensed incinerators of which one(1) is government-owned and the others are private owned.

Progress
The country is implementing a GEF-8 project, which has components that address mercury management in the healthcare sector and is implementing a phase-out plan for mercury-added products and equipment in the healthcare sector.

▼ 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
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Progress
{Empty}

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?
29 March 2021

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

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.
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 contains the implementation plan, however, it was not submitted within 4 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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
- ( ) Do not know (please explain)

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 (please explain)

When was the inventory last updated?
29 March 2021

Please indicate where this inventory is available.
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Please explain
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Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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 (please explain)
- ( ) Do not know (please explain)

If yes, please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner, and the effectiveness of those measures.
The government has upgraded the Central Medical Stores and enhanced storage infrastructure across healthcare facilities. Furthermore, the procurement of a temperature-controlled fleet has been finalized to safeguard the integrity and efficacy of health commodities and equipment during transit.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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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

☐ Yes - the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner

☑ Yes - the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is recovered, recycled, reclaimed or directly re-used for a use allowed to a party under the Convention or for environmentally sound disposal pursuant to paragraph 3 (a)

Please describe measure and effectiveness of 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 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.

☐ Yes - the party has taken measures so that mercury waste is not transported across international boundaries except for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal

If the party answered yes to any measures above, 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 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

○ Do not know (please explain)

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ 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

The government has successfully completed the identification and assessment of mercury-contaminated sites, subsequently developing strategic frameworks for their remediation. While foundational strategies are in place, further technical implementation remains a priority. To improve broader waste infrastructure, a 2021 waste characterization pilot was conducted to analyze the composition of waste at disposal facilities. Following this pilot and subsequent capacity-building initiatives, waste characterization has been mainstreamed into the management systems of municipalities covering 70% of the urban population (which represents 30% of the total national demographic). Furthermore, the state is currently conducting targeted mercury assessments of water and sediment at Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sites.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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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

Several key provisions of the Minamata Convention have been integrated into national activities through the following mechanisms:
1. The development of the Chemicals Management Bill is currently underway to provide the necessary legal framework to domesticate and enforce the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
2. The Eswatini Environment Authority (EEA) has established a dedicated Chemicals and Waste Management Unit. This unit is mandated to ensure the operationalisation and effective implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including the Minamata Convention.
3. A National Technical Advisory Committee has been operationalised to provide strategic guidance, technical expertise, and oversight for all activities related to the Convention's implementation.

13.2: Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13?

( ) Yes

(●) No

Please provide comments, if any.

Eswatini is a developing country hence unable to contribute.

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
In light of its status as a developing nation, Eswatini faces significant resource and budgetary constraints that currently limit its capacity to provide financial contributions.

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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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
In 2023, Eswatini's national consultants for the Mercury Initial Assessment (MIA) report, facilitated by the Africa Institute, provided virtual capacity-building support to Kenya regarding data collection methodologies for their respective MIA report.

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

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Please specify
The government has successfully leveraged technical assistance for the development of both the Mercury Initial Assessment (MIA) and the National Action Plan (NAP) for the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector. Beyond technical development, the country maintained high-level diplomatic engagement by participating in COP-6 in November 2025, preceded by the regional preparatory meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. Furthermore, through targeted support, the country contributed to the UNEA-7 sessions regarding the effective implementation of the Convention

Please provide comments, if any.
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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 light of its status as a developing nation, Eswatini faces significant resource and budgetary constraints that currently limit its capacity to provide financial contributions.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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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.
(a) Through the National Action Plan (NAP) for the ASGM Sector in Eswatini project, the Kingdom conducted comprehensive assessments to identify populations at risk of mercury exposure, as detailed in the 2022 NAP.
(b) Building upon the ASGM sector overview, a National Action Plan was formulated. This plan incorporates a public health strategy and targeted interventions designed to mitigate the harmful impacts of mercury on at-risk communities.
(c) A national mercury awareness strategy was established in 2022 and is currently being integrated into the Eswatini Environment Authority's (EEA) broader outreach initiatives. Notable progress includes an inter-ministerial partnership with the Ministry of Education and Training, which successfully facilitated the distribution of mercury-free thermometers to educational institutions nationwide.

16.2: Have any measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16 beyond the provision of information to the public on exposure to mercury (referred to in question 16.1)?

◉ Yes

○ No

Supplemental: If yes, describe the measures that have been taken.
(a) Through the National Action Plan (NAP) for the ASGM Sector in Eswatini project, the Kingdom conducted comprehensive assessments to identify populations at risk of mercury exposure, as detailed in the 2022 NAP.
(b) Building upon the ASGM sector overview, a National Action Plan was formulated. This plan incorporates a public health strategy and targeted interventions designed to mitigate the harmful impacts of mercury on at-risk communities.
(c) A national mercury awareness strategy was established in 2022 and is currently being integrated into the Eswatini Environment Authority's (EEA) broader outreach initiatives. Notable progress includes an inter-ministerial partnership with the Ministry of Education and Training, which successfully facilitated the distribution of mercury-free thermometers to educational institutions nationwide.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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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

If yes, the Party may wish to indicate in the space provided below the exchange of information it has facilitated, such as:

☑ Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information

Scientific, technical, economic and legal information concerning mercury and mercury compounds, including toxicological, ecotoxicological and safety information
Multisectoral engagement was conducted to sensitise national stakeholders on the Mercury Initial Assessment (MIA) and the statutory requirements of the Convention text. Furthermore, the country

facilitated the exchange of knowledge products, fostering the sharing of critical scientific data and legal frameworks to ensure a harmonised approach to implementation.

☑ Information on the reduction or elimination of the production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds

Information on the reduction or elimination of the production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds
Comprehensive information regarding the Convention's requirements was integrated into national stakeholder presentations to ensure technical alignment. As part of a strategic objective to phase out mercury-added products, the government distributed mercury-free thermometers to educational institutions. Furthermore, to address unauthorized artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), the state has implemented a licensing framework designed to formalize the sector and eliminate illicit activities.

☐ Information on technically and economically viable alternatives to:

☐ Epidemiological information concerning health impacts associated with exposure to mercury and mercury compounds, in close cooperation with the World Health Organization and other relevant organizations, as appropriate. (Art. 17.1 (a)-(d))

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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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, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the measures it has taken to promote and facilitate information to the public, such as:
(a) Provision to the public of available information on:

☑ The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment

The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment
(a) Eswatini is progressively implementing its National Mercury Awareness Strategy via the Eswatini Environment Authority. Key milestones include:
(i) Continuous production and nationwide dissemination of IEC materials. Outreach is tailored to high-risk groups, utilizing multimedia platforms and community engagement to communicate mercury's harmful impacts.
(ii) The curriculum mainstreaming process, which focuses on embedding mercury safety into the school system through expert-led lectures and the distribution of mercury-free diagnostic equipment to promote safer learning environments.

☑ Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds

Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds
The dissemination of the Convention text served as a primary mechanism for sharing essential technical information with stakeholders. Furthermore, as part of a national strategic objective to phase out mercury-added products, the government facilitated the distribution of mercury-free thermometers across educational institutions. Within the mining sector, the government introduced a formalization framework through the issuance of licenses, aimed at transitioning informal operations into regulated, compliant mining activities.

☑ The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17

The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17

National efforts to implement the Minamata Convention have focused on capacity building and regulatory reform. Stakeholder consultations on the MIA report were bolstered by the distribution of technical knowledge products to ensure cross-sectoral alignment. In the health and education sectors, the transition toward mercury-free alternatives was advanced through the procurement of digital thermometers for schools. Concurrently, the licensing of Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sites has been prioritized to curb illicit activities.

☑ The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19

The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19

1. Significant progress has been made in establishing an evidence-based approach to mercury management. Key research activities include:
2. Ecological Risk Assessments regarding the impact of mercury compounds on national biodiversity.
3. The quantification of mercury sources through the National Mercury Inventory.
4. Site-specific analysis of mercury contamination stemming from Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) activities.
5. Longitudinal water quality monitoring conducted by the EEA, with a specific focus on anthropogenic mercury pollution.

☑ Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

The government has conducted extensive multisectoral stakeholder consultations to validate the findings of the Mercury Initial Assessment (MIA) report. This inclusive approach ensures that the national implementation strategy reflects the technical input and priorities of all relevant sectors.

(b) Education, training and public awareness related to the effects of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and vulnerable populations, as appropriate.

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

In alignment with the Eswatini Environment Authority (EEA) Awareness Program, a suite of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials has been developed to highlight the environmental and physiological impacts of mercury. These resources are subject to continuous nationwide dissemination, utilizing a multimodal approach that includes community roadshows and national radio broadcasts. Outreach efforts are specifically tailored to vulnerable demographics, with a primary focus on Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) communities.

(Art. 18 (1) (a) and (b))

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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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, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the research, development and monitoring it has undertaken, such as:

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

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

In alignment with the Minamata Convention requirements, a National Mercury Inventory has been conducted to identify and prioritize key sectors for future mercury reduction interventions.

☐ 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

☑ 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

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
Significant progress has been made in establishing an evidence-based approach to mercury management. Key research activities include:
1. Ecological Risk Assessments regarding the impact of mercury compounds on national biodiversity.
2. The quantification of mercury sources through the National Mercury Inventory.
3. Site-specific analysis of mercury contamination stemming from Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) activities.
4. Longitudinal water quality monitoring conducted by the EEA, with a specific focus on anthropogenic mercury pollution.

☐ Harmonized methodologies for the activities undertaken under subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 of article 19

☐ 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 remobilization of mercury from historic deposition

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

Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products
The Mercury Initial Assessment (MIA) report utilized trade data provided by the Eswatini Revenue Service (ERS) to quantify the import and export of mercury-added products

☐ Information and research on the technical and economic availability of mercury-free products and processes and on best available techniques and best environmental practices to reduce and monitor emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds

(Art. 19 (1) (a)-(g))

Part E - Additional comments on this article

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▼ COMMENTS REGARDING POSSIBLE CHALLENGES IN MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION

Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention

The Kingdom of Eswatini faces significant financial, technical, and infrastructural constraints that impede full compliance with the Minamata Convention. Key challenges include:
1. Funding and expertise are required to develop and implement National Action Plans for Articles 4 (Mercury-Added Products), 7 (ASGM), 8 & 9 (Emissions and Releases), 12 (Contaminated Sites), 16 (Health Aspects), and 19 (Research and Monitoring).
2. There is an urgent need to domesticate the Minamata and Basel Conventions and align national air pollution regulations with international standards. Current legislation does not fully encompass all Convention provisions.
3. Limited access to affordable mercury alternatives (dental amalgam/gold processing) and advanced detection tools (robotics/blockchain) at ports of entry hinders enforcement and the phase-out of

mercury-added products.
4. The absence of geo-scientific data prevents the effective formalization of the ASGM sector, while inadequate inter-party information exchange limits regional coordination.
5. A regional project is essential to curb the illegal mercury trade, which remains a primary threat to national and regional implementation efforts.

▼ COMMENTS REGARDING THE REPORTING FORMAT AND POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY

Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

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