

2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 7 February 2026

*Part E of Articles 4, 8 and 11 amended by Lao PDR on 6 March 2026



REPORTING PERIOD:

1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party

Lao People's Democratic Republic

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

21 September 2017

Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party

20 December 2017

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution

Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment

Title of Contact Officer

Deputy Director General of Department of Environment

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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

a3_subsection

Full name of the institution

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Title of contact officer

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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.

There are no stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons per year in Lao PDR.

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.

There are no sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year in Lao PDR.

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

- Imports mainly related to ASGM activities in the past.
- Lao PDR relies on Article 3 provisions and cooperates with customs authorities.

▼ 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.

Lao PDR has a policy to reduce and control as much as possible the import and export of toxic chemicals including mercury.

If yes, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

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 the party answered no to question 4.3(A) above, please explain

Lao PDR has not yet implemented two or more measures listed in part II of annex A. This is due to the absence of specific national policies, limited use of mercury-free alternatives, and capacity and financial constraints. The country plans to strengthen measures progressively with technical and financial support.

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

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.

Lao PDR has not yet taken specific measures to discourage the manufacture and distribution of mercury-added products not covered by any known use. This is due to the absence of a dedicated regulatory framework and limited information on such products in the domestic market. The country intends to address this issue through future policy development, awareness-raising, and strengthened chemical management systems, with technical support as needed.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

With regard to Q4.1, Lao PDR has not yet adopted specific regulations prohibiting the manufacture, import, or export of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A. While the Environment Protection Law (2024) and Law on Chemicals management (2016) provide a general policy framework for controlling toxic chemicals, including mercury, no targeted phase-out measures have been implemented. The country continues to rely on general customs controls and plans to develop specific regulations with technical and financial support.

With regard to Q4.3 (B), the response is "Yes, in progress". Lao PDR acknowledges that the amendment is in force and is taking steps toward implementation, although no manufacture, import, or export of these products currently occurs within the country. Lao PDR acknowledges that the amendment to Annex A (decision MC4/3) entered into force on 28 September 2023 and is applicable to the Party. The Party has not yet taken specific measures to implement the amended Annex A requirements due to: • Limited technical capacity • Limited financial resources • Absence of specific national regulations for the newly listed products Lao PDR intends to develop and implement relevant measures progressively with: • Technical support from development partners • Financial assistance through the Convention's mechanism • Capacity building for customs and enforcement authorities.

▼ 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

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▼ 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.

Lao PDR has developed a National Action Plan (NAP) for artisanal and small-scale gold mining; however, its implementation has not yet commenced due to limited financial resources. Despite this constraint, the Government plans to implement NAP-related activities as funding becomes available, including measures to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate the use of mercury in ASGM.

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

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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)

Lao PDR has no new sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds in any of the source categories listed in Annex D. There have been no newly constructed or substantially modified facilities that fall under these categories since the entry into force of the Minamata Convention for

Lao PDR.

As there are no new sources, the application of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) for new sources is not applicable at this time. The Government continues to monitor potential future developments in relevant sectors to ensure compliance with Article 8 requirements as needed.

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

Environment Protection Law (2024)

Agreement on National Environmental Standards (2017)

Law on Chemicals (2016)

National Pollution Control Strategy and Action Plan 2018–2025 with Vision to 2030

Decree on Environmental Impact Assessment (2022)

Progress

Implementation of these provisions continues, including with regard to Mercury.

▼ 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

Environment Protection Law (2024)

Agreement on National Environmental Standards (2017)

Law on Chemicals (2016)

National Pollution Control Strategy and Action Plan 2018–2025 with Vision to 2030

Decree on Environmental Impact Assessment (2022)

Progress

Implementation in progress

▼ **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

Environment Protection Law (2024)

Agreement on National Environmental Standards (2017)

Law on Chemicals (2016)

National Pollution Control Strategy and Action Plan 2018–2025 with Vision to 2030

Decree on Environmental Impact Assessment (2022)

Progress

Implementation in progress

▼ **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

Environment Protection Law (2024)

Agreement on National Environmental Standards (2017)

Law on Chemicals (2016)

National Pollution Control Strategy and Action Plan 2018–2025 with Vision to 2030

Decree on Environmental Impact Assessment (2022)

Progress

Implementation in progress

▼ **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

Environment Protection Law (2024)

Agreement on National Environmental Standards (2017)

Law on Chemicals (2016)

National Pollution Control Strategy and Action Plan 2018–2025 with Vision to 2030

Decree on Environmental Impact Assessment (2022)

Progress

Implementation in progress

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

Please explain

While some guidance and initial measures have been introduced, full implementation of BAT/BEP and emission control measures for existing sources has not yet been achieved, mainly due to limited financial and technical resources. Lao PDR continues to work toward establishing a more comprehensive regulatory framework and facilitating adoption of emission reduction measures by relevant facilities.

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 no such inventory exists, please explain

Lao PDR has carried out a small-scale inventory as part of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining project. We intend to carry out a comprehensive inventory of mercury emissions in the next 5 years. This will require financial and technical support from the Minamata Convention.

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

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 this article

Lao PDR has a policy to reduce and control emissions of toxic chemicals, including mercury and mercury compounds, and national environmental standards on waste, including mercury. However, we do not yet have a specific action plan for the control of mercury emissions from particular sectors.

With regard to Q8.2, Lao PDR has identified existing mercury emission sources across all Annex D categories, including coal-fired power plants, industrial boilers, smelting and roasting processes,

waste incineration, and cement production facilities. Current measures rely on general environmental laws and standards, such as the Environment Protection Law (2024) and the Agreement on National Environmental Standards (2017), which provide a framework for pollution control but lack source-specific mercury emission limits. To date, no comprehensive mercury emissions inventory has been completed, and monitoring remains limited. Lao PDR plans to develop a full emissions inventory within the next five years and establish source-specific control measures, with technical and financial support from the Minamata Convention.

▼ 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.

Control of mercury release is referenced in the Environment Protection Law (2024), Law on Chemicals (2016) and the Agreement on National Environmental Standards (2017). Current measures to control the release of mercury depend on international standards and procedures that are specific to each industry. In the future, we plan to develop national mercury control standards for Lao PDR.

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)

Please explain

Lao PDR has carried out a small-scale inventory as part of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining project. We intend to carry out a comprehensive inventory of mercury releases in the next 5 years. This will require financial and technical support from the Minamata Convention.

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.

Lao PDR has general guidelines and regulations for safe storage of toxic and hazardous chemicals however we do not have specific guidelines for mercury. It is noted that some large international operations do have specific procedures and facilities for management of mercury storage and use.

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)

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

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures

Lao PDR has procedures for mining operations to retain all mercury used within a closed system and not allow any mercury waste to be released into the environment.

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.

Lao PDR has procedures for mining operations to retain all mercury used within a closed system and not allow any mercury waste to be released into the environment.

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

With regard to Q11.1, Lao PDR manages mercury waste primarily through its general hazardous waste framework under the Environment Protection Law (2024) and Law on Chemicals (2016). Mining operations are required to retain mercury in closed systems to prevent environmental release. As a Party to the Basel Convention, Lao PDR follows prior informed consent procedures for any transboundary movement of mercury waste, though no such transport has occurred during the reporting period. Currently, no dedicated mercury waste disposal facilities exist in the country, and mercury-specific guidelines remain under development. Lao PDR plans to strengthen its regulatory framework for mercury waste management in line with both Minamata and Basel Convention obligations, with technical and financial support from international partners.

▼ 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

We are not aware of any significant sites of mercury contamination in the Lao PDR.

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

Minamata Initial Assessment and Updating of National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Lao PDR (April 2017 – June 2021), executed by UNEP in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment along with the Artisanal Gold Council. Total expenditure of USD \$690,000 was mobilized from donors. Lao PDR will continue to seek technical and financial support from international donors and the Lao PDR government will also provide funding as possible to support implementation of the Convention.

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.

Lao PDR has contributed in-kind and continues to assess its resources, including support from donors, for this purpose.

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

As a developing country, the Lao PDR is assessing its ability to provide financial resources for this purpose.

Please provide comments, if any.

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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

As a developing country, the Lao PDR looks forward to receiving such capacity building and technical assistance.

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Please specify

Guidance was received through technical advisors in preparation of the National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Lao PDR in accordance with the Minamata Convention on Mercury 2020–2030.

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

Such alternative technologies have not yet been implemented in Lao PDR.

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

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

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

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

(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

A baseline study was conducted to assess mercury use and levels of contamination in association with artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Lao PDR. This study supported drafting of the National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Lao PDR in Accordance with the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

☐ 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

☐ 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 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

Lao PDR faces challenges in fully meeting the objectives of the Convention due to limited technical capacity, financial resources, and access to mercury-free technologies. Additional challenges include gaps in data, stakeholder awareness, and inter-agency coordination. Continued international support, capacity-building, and technology transfer remain essential.

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

Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

The reporting format is generally clear and comprehensive; however, simplification of some questions, clearer guidance notes, and additional examples would help improve consistency and ease of reporting, particularly for countries further with limited technical capacity.