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 Natural Resources and Environment Inspection, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR

**Title of National Focal Point**
Director General, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Inspection, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR

**Name of National Focal Point**
Mr. Virasack Chundara

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**Web page**
(Empty)
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**
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Inspection, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR

**Title of contact officer**
Deputy Director General, Department of Natural Resources and Environment Inspection, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR

**Name of contact officer**
Mr. Aloune Sayavong

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**Web page**
{Empty}

▼ ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

3.1. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that were operating within its territory at the date of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- Yes
- No

Additional information on this question if needed
{Empty}
3.2. Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

☐ Yes
☐ No

3.3. Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If the party answered No above, please explain.
There are no stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year in Lao PDR.

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

Additional information if needed
There were no exports of mercury from Lao PDR during the reporting period.

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

In addition to MINAMATA, Lao PDR is Party to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.
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.

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

Lao PDR does not manufacture mercury-added products.
### 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>CHLOR-ALKALI PRODUCTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Not applicable (do not have these facilities)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No</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.
Carried out national baseline for artisanal and small-scale gold mining in accordance with Minamata and produced National Action Plan for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Lao PDR in accordance with MINAMATA convention on Mercury 2020 – 2030
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

- Empty

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
- Empty

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

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
Environment Protection Law (2013), Law on the Chemicals (2016) and National Environmental Standards (2017) require the control of mercury emissions and sets concentration limits for air, water and soil. BAT/BEP to achieve this is under consideration.

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 (2013)
Agreement on National Environmental Standards (2017)
Law on the 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 (2013)
Agreement on National Environmental Standards (2017)
Law on the 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 (2013)
Agreement on National Environmental Standards (2017)
Law on the 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
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 (2013)
- Agreement on National Environmental Standards (2017)
- Law on the 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

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 the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

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

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.

Control of mercury release is referenced in the Environment Protection Law (2013), Law on the 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

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 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

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 the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{Empty}

ART. 11: MERCURY WASTES

11.1. Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party’s mercury waste?

- Yes
- No

Please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.
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
- I do not know
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 Lao PDR.

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

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.

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}

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

☐ Yes
☐ No
Please specify
Lao PDR has contributed in-kind and continues to assess its resources, including support from donors, for this purpose.

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

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}

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
As a developing country, 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.
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 the article in free text if the party chooses to do so

{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

16.2. Have any other measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16?

- Yes
- No

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
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

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

(Empty)

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

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.

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

(Empty)

COMMENTS

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

To date, Lao PDR has carried out research and produced a mercury inventory and action plan only for artisanal and small scale gold mining activities. We intend to conduct a comprehensive inventory of all
sources of mercury emissions and releases and their impact on the environment and human health. However, in view of limitations on the Party’s capabilities and resources, this will require additional assistance and support from the Convention.

▼ SUPPLEMENTAL – ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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

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