2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 17 December 2025

REPORTING PERIOD:
1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

Attachments can be found on the website

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party
Lesotho

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited
12 November 2014

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

2. Information on the national focal point

Full name of the institution
Ministry of Environment

Title of Contact Officer
Ms.

Name of Contact Officer
Mamaboloka Kibiti

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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

▼ 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

ba33a_subsection

i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the Internet;

- LSO_3.3a.xls

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https://minamataconvention.org/system/files/webform/reporting_system_2025/_sid_/Assessment.sheetlesotho2025final_0%20%281%29.xls

ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information – for example, on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks.
{Empty}

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

ba33b_subsection

i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the Internet;

- LSO_3.3b.xls

i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the Internet;
https://minamataconvention.org/system/files/webform/reporting_system_2025/_sid_/Assessment.sheetlesotho2025final_0%20%281%29_0.xls

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

3.3 (A) (B) No mercury stocks are available in the quantities of 10 metric tons nor of 50 metric tons.
3.4 Lesotho does not have chlor-alkali industries however, the question does not give room for reporting such a situation

▼ 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.
Lesotho has drafted a law to prohibit the manufacture, import or export of mercury added products listed in Part I of Annex A. The law is still in draft form, since it had to be resubmitted to the office of Parliamentary Counsel. Nonetheless, during the MIA, Lesotho managed to develop the National Strategy for Phasing Out/Down Mercury Added Products in Lesotho 2022

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

◉ Yes

○ No

If yes, for which products (please list)?

☑ Batteries, except for button zinc silver oxide batteries with a mercury content < 2% and button zinc air batteries with a mercury content < 2%

☑ Switches and relays, except very high accuracy capacitance and loss measurement bridges and high frequency radio frequency switches and relays in monitoring and control instruments with a maximum mercury content of 20 mg per bridge, switch or relay

☑ Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for general lighting purposes that are ≤ 30 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp burner

☑ Linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) for general lighting purposes: (a) Triband phosphor < 60 watts with a mercury content exceeding 5 mg per lamp; (b) Halophosphate phosphor ≤ 40 watts with a mercury content exceeding 10 mg per lamp

☑ High pressure mercury vapour lamps (HPMV) for general lighting purposes

☑ Mercury in cold cathode fluorescent lamps and external electrode fluorescent lamps (CCFL and EEFL) for electronic displays: (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

☑ Cosmetics (with mercury content above 1ppm), including skin lightening soaps and creams, and not including eye area cosmetics where mercury is used as a preservative and no effective and safe substitute preservatives are available

☑ Pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics

☑ The following non-electronic measuring devices except non-electronic measuring devices installed in large-scale equipment or those used for high precision measurement:(a) barometers; (b) hygrometers; (c) manometers; (d) thermometers; (e) sphygmomanometers

4.3: (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.
Lesotho embarked on awareness raising activities together with the Ministry of Health in collaboration with Christian Health Association of Lesotho, in an endeavour to promote the use of cost-effective and clinically effective mercury-free alternatives for dental restoration, and eliminate the use of mercury amalgam. The campaign further encouraged representative professional organizations and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals and students on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives and on promoting best management practices, discouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour dental amalgam use over mercury-free dental restoration, encouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour the use of quality alternatives to dental amalgam for dental restoration, promote the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to the environment.

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 yes please select from the bellow checkboxes

☐ Excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, the use of mercury in bulk form by dental practitioners

☑ Excluded or not allowed, by taking measures as appropriate, or recommended against, the use of dental amalgam for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth of patients under 15 years of age and of pregnant and breastfeeding women, except when such use is considered necessary by the dental practitioner based on the needs of the patient

If the party answered yes to either option above, please provide information on the measures.
Lesotho embarked on awareness raising activities together with the Ministry of Health in collaboration with Christian Health Association of Lesotho, in an endeavour to promote the use of cost-effective and clinically effective mercury-free alternatives for dental restoration, and eliminate the use of mercury amalgam. The campaign further encouraged representative professional organizations and dental schools to educate and train dental professionals and students on the use of mercury-free dental restoration alternatives and on promoting best management practices, discouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour dental amalgam use over mercury-free dental restoration, encouraging insurance policies and programmes that favour the use of quality alternatives to dental amalgam for dental restoration, promote the use of best environmental practices in dental facilities to reduce releases of mercury and mercury compounds to the environment.

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)

If yes, please provide information on the measures.
The proposed Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals Control and Management Bill, prohibits the manufacture, import and export of 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 yes, please provide information on the measures.

Lesotho embarked on awareness raising programmes, discouraging the manufacture and distribution of mercury added products. The proposed Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals Control and Management Bill, prohibits the manufacture, import and export of mercury added products.

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

5.5 There is no action taken because no such facilities exist in the country.

▼ 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

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

7.5: 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

Coal-fired industrial boilers
No measures in place

- ☐ Smelting and roasting processes used in the production of non-ferrous metals
- ☑ Waste incineration facilities

Waste incineration facilities
Limited usage in healthcare waste treatment and there are no measures in place.

- ☐ 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)

If Yes, please explain

The Ministry of Health has replaced some old incinerators (De Montfort) with two-stage chamber incinerators (with enhanced temperature).
Shift from heavy furnace oil (HFO) fired boilers to anthracite fired boilers

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
- [x] 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
Use of anthracite over other types of coal to try and reduce emissions

Progress
Follow ups are conducted for industries to upgrade their boilers to less polluting energy sources

▼ SMELTING AND ROASTING PROCESSES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF NON-FERROUS METALS

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

Measures
{Empty}

Progress
{Empty}

▼ 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
- [x] 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
The Ministry of Health has replaced some old incinerators (De Montfort) with two-stage chamber incinerators (with enhanced temperature).

Progress

Follow up has continuously been undertaken to monitor the efficiency of the incinerators. From 2008 to 2024, there had been commissioning of new incinerators now with a secondary chamber that heats to temperatures up to 1000 degrees Celsius.

▼ 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
{Empty}

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?
1 July 2021

Please indicate where this inventory is available
https://minamataconvention.org/system/files/webform/reporting_system_2025/_sid_/Assessment.sheetlesotho2025final_0%20%281%29.xls

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

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
Lesotho has developed phase in operational plan for the introduction and implementation of a national strategy for phasing out/down mercury added products in Lesotho 2022 and is yet to develop a costed national plan.

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)

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?
1 July 2021

Please indicate where this inventory is available.
LSO_9.2.xls

Please explain
https://minamataconvention.org/system/files/webform/reporting_system_2025/_sid_/Assessment.sheetlesotho2025final_0%20%281%29_0.xls

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 no, please explain
Activities in Lesotho do not require use of non-waste mercury and mercury products and therefore, there is no need to establish an interim storage

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
- [x] 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
{Empty}

- [x] 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
Bulk generators of mercury containing wastes such as chloro-fluorescent tubes as well as e-wastes are exported to the neighbouring South Africa where infrastructure exists for environmentally sound management of such wastes.

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.
The Basel Convention procedures are proven to be effective because for the disposal of mercury-containing wastes, necessary approvals are obtained from the respective Competent Authorities of the two countries hence disposal certificates are issued.

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
Lesotho developed strategies to manage mercury contaminated sites, then embarked on a preliminary exercise to identify potential contaminated sites.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Remediation of these sites is outstanding due to financial constraints.

▼ 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
Funds are requested on yearly basis and are covered under recurrent budget although often limited.

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.
Lesotho as a developing country party does not have financial muscle to contribute to such a noble initiative.

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
Lesotho as a developing country party is not in a position to offer such assistance or support.

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
Lesotho is a developing country party.

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

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

Please specify
Lesotho has received capacity building and technical assistance for implementation of the Convention from Africa Institute, which is the regional centre as well as from the Special International Programme.

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}

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
Lesotho as a developing country party has not yet graduated to offer such support

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 communication strategy is in place, and it is being implemented.

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.
Training and capacity building has been provided in order to strengthen institutional and health professional capacities for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of health risks related to the exposure to mercury and mercury compounds. For example, public healthcare facilities no longer use dental amalgam, traditional doctors are moving away from using mercury in their practice. Increased practise of green procurement in relation to mercury free products, e.g. medical equipment.

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

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
Developed information, education and communication materials.
Conducted radio and TV programmes
Held road shows

- ☐ Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds
- ☐ The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17
- ☐ The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19
- ☐ Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

(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
Held workshops for traditional healers and doctors.
Dedicated awareness sessions for expecting mothers.
Held working sessions with both intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations taking into account vulnerable populations (representatives from Lesotho National Federation of Disabled Persons were in attendance).

(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
Lesotho undertook:
- Inventories of use, consumption, and anthropogenic emissions to air and releases to water and land of mercury and mercury compounds;
- Market research on alternatives to mercury added products.
- Research on levels of mercury in skin lightening creams and from fish samples collected from the Maqalika dam indicated that levels were above the WHO/FDA recommended limits.
- Study assessed knowledge, perceptions, awareness of African Basotho women towards the use of skin lightening products. (Motlohi N.F. et. al, 2022).

☐ 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

- Delay in the promulgation of the requisite law thereby adversely impacting on the enforcement capacity of the provisions of the Convention by the Competent Authority and other key stakeholders.
- Quantification of mercury added products remains a challenge due to incompatible national data from Revenue Services Lesotho and Ministry responsible for trade in relation to HS codes.
- Management of mercury wastes remains a big challenge on account of absence of appropriate infrastructure to handle hazardous waste, e.g. sanitary landfills and high-tech thermal incinerators. This leaves Lesotho with no option but heavy reliance on South Africa for either treatment, recovery, and disposal of such wastes, thereby becoming a costly exercise.
- Due to high informal Artisanal Small Scale Gold mining taking place in the neighbouring South Africa and the high practise of using mercury for gold extraction, this has led to illegal trafficking of mercury which often lands in Lesotho, where it is traded for other purposes, e.g. traditional cultural beliefs.

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

Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

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