

2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 29 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

Mauritius

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

Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division)

Title of Contact Officer

1. Permanent Secretary; 2. Director of Environment

Name of Contact Officer

1. Ms. Jeanne Lan Hing Po; 2. Mr. Jogeewar Seewoobaduth

Mailing address

1. 10th Floor, Ken Lee Tower, Cnr Barracks & St Georges Streets, 11302, Port-Louis, Mauritius

2. 2nd Floor, Ken Lee Tower, Cnr Barracks & St Georges Streets, 11302, Port-Louis, Mauritius

Telephone number

1. (+230) 212 7175; 2. (+230) 212 6080

Fax number

1. (+230) 212 8324; 2. (+230) 212 6671

E-mail

jlanhp@govmu.org

Second E-mail

jseewoobaduth@govmu.org

Web page

<https://environment.govmu.org/Pages/Index.aspx>

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

Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division)

Title of contact officer

Environment Officer/Senior Environment Officer

Name of contact officer

Mr. Ajayedutt Juggurnath

Mailing address

8th Floor, Ken Lee Tower, Cnr Barracks & St Georges Streets, 11302, Port-Louis, Mauritius

Telephone number

(+230) 2036200

Fax number

(+230) 213 7140

E-mail

ajuggurnath@govmu.org

Second E-mail

menv@govmu.org

Web page

<https://environment.govmu.org/Pages/Index.aspx>

▼ **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

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

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

In the Republic of Mauritius, there are no mercury mines, units or plants involved in primary metal production or making use of mercury or its compounds.

▼ 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.

Mercury–added products are not produced in Mauritius. The import of mercury–added products are controlled by the Customs and/or Pharmacy Board at entry points. Additionally, the Consumer Protection (Control of Imports) Regulations 2017 is being amended to prohibit mercury–added products listed in Part I of Annex A of the Convention.

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 yes, please provide information on the measures.

To limit the use of dental amalgam in Mauritius, the Ministry of Health and Wellness has been very active in initiating measures that include:

- Strengthening of oral health promotion and disease prevention in schools and communities as the strategy to reduce the use of all restorative dental materials. Preventive care reinforced by widespread use of fluoride and pits and fissure sealants among children.
- Banning of dental amalgam in pregnant women and young children.
- An increased focus on the use of 'white fillings', glass-ionomer cements and resin-based composite materials.
- Use of amalgam separators, together with other measures of Best Management Practices contemplated to reduce mercury discharge to the environment.

[NOTE: Above extract is from the Republic of Mauritius Minamata Initial Assessment Report 2018, pg 77.]

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 yes, please provide information on the measures.

Import of mercury is strictly controlled under the Dangerous Chemical Control Act (DCCA), thereby preventing its availability as a potential raw material.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

There is no manufacture/assembly of products that contain mercury in Mauritius.

▼ 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

No manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used is found in Mauritius (Findings at Page 14, Level 2 Inventory of Republic of Mauritius Minamata Initial Assessment Report 2018).

▼ 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

{Empty}

Part E – Additional comments on this article

There is no artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in the Republic of Mauritius.

▼ 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)

There has been no new plant which falls under the above mentioned category, for this 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

- A new proposed air standard has been developed which includes thresholds for both ambient and stack emissions. The regulation is in its final stage of development; but has not yet been promulgated.
- The mercury content in coal is monitored for each consignment, whereby the importer

submits the 'Certificate of sampling and analysis of shipment of coal'. The results include an analysis of the mercury content in the consignment.

- Procurement of coal with low mercury and Sulphur content are favoured.
- Coal power plants are subject to an Environment Impact Assessment application, whereby the promoters are required to propose best available technologies for approval.
- Coal ash generated from coal power plants are used as additives in cement, hence reducing potential release of mercury and other pollutants.
- The policy adopted by Government is to phase out the use of coal in energy sector by 2035 and achieving 60% renewable energy in electricity production by 2035.

Progress

- Proposed threshold in air standards.
- The mercury content in coal was 0.4 mg/kg in year 2007 and now ranges from 0.012 to 0.146 mg of Hg/kg of coal.
- In year 2024, there were 4 coal power plants in operation and all these plants were subject to an EIA application.
- Installed renewable energy capacity in Mauritius increased from 146 MW in 2014 to around 270 MW in 2024, with the implementation of several new solar and wind farms.
- The Renewable Energy Roadmap are being reviewed so as to achieve the phasing out of coal by 2035.

▼ 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

All coal powered industrial boilers are ceasing operation and the new boilers are being powered by heavy fuel oil or diesel.

Progress

{Empty}

▼ 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

No smelting or roasting processes undertaken.

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
- 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

A new proposed air standard has been developed which includes thresholds for both ambient and stack emissions. The regulation has however not yet been promulgated.

From Mercury Initial Assessment report:

- There is no incineration of Municipal Solid Waste (Pg 48 of MIA Report 2018)
- No incineration of hazardous waste other than fuel oil sludge is undertaken (Hazardous waste – Page 48 of MIA Report 2018)
- Emissions from Medical waste amounts to some 24.19 kg/year (Page 50 of MIA Report 2018)

Progress

{Empty}

▼ 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

There is no cement clinker production in the territory.

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

Please explain

No cement clinker production undertaken.

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 November 2018

Please indicate where this inventory is available

https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/minamata_initial_assessment/Maruritiu-MIA-2019.pdf

Attach

- [MUS_8.3.pdf](#)

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

Part E – Additional comments on this article

Mauritius is presently participating in the regional project Implementing Sustainable Low and non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) within the Indian Ocean along with other three participating islands namely: Comoros, Maldives, and Seychelles. The program is meant to assist SIDS in addressing challenges being faced in the sound and sustainable management of chemicals and wastes. The ultimate objective of the project is for each participating Small Island Developing State (SIDS) to:

- Prevent the future build-up of materials and chemicals entering SIDS that contain POPs and mercury and other harmful chemicals;
- Safely manage and dispose of existing harmful chemicals, products and materials currently present in those SIDS; and
- Ensure the safe management of products continuing to enter SIDS by closing materials and product loops. The project duration is five years (September 2022 to September 2027).

Under the project for Mauritius:

- (i) A national monitoring plan for mercury in ambient air near major point sources has been approved for implementation.
- (ii) The capacity of the National Environmental Laboratory has been enhanced to monitor flue gases for mercury, including procurement of equipment.
- (iii) A consultant is being hired to develop a gender responsive phase-out plan for mercury containing products, including existing products listed in Part 1 of Annex A of the Convention.
- (iv) Training will be provided on management of mercury containing products/wastes, handling and storage at place of work.
- (v) An online mercury database (for uploading of studies and resource materials) is also under process for awareness raising of public.

(vi) Inventory of hazardous wastes, including mercury and mercury contaminated wastes and an information management system would be carried out.

▼ 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?

29 November 2018

Please indicate where this inventory is available.

[MUS_9.2.pdf](#)

Please explain

https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/minamata_initial_assessment/Maruritiu-MIA-2019.pdf

Part E – Additional comments on this article

The Mercury Initial Assessment Report 2018 which includes a National Inventory on Mercury, did not reveal any significant sources of releases as per Paragraph 2(b) of Article 9.

▼ 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

In the Republic of Mauritius, there are neither mercury mines, nor industry making use of mercury or mercury compounds in the manufacturing processes.

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

Please describe measure and effectiveness of measures

{Empty}

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

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.

There is no final disposal facility for mercury containing wastes in Mauritius. However, an interim storage facility for hazardous wastes is in operation since 24 April 2017, which provides for the interim storage of hazardous chemicals wastes, including wastes containing mercury generated in Mauritius, which are subsequently exported to licensed facilities, mostly in Europe for final disposal.

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

A National Inventory was undertaken in year 2018, whereby no mercury contaminated sites were identified.

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

The Republic of Mauritius has legislative and institutional framework which enables the implementation of several aspects of the Minamata Convention. For instance, mercury and compounds are prohibited under the Dangerous Chemical Control Act. With regard to waste management, the Solid Waste Management Division is the enforcing agency for hazardous waste and an interim hazardous waste storage facility is operational since 2017. All mercury compounds and wastes are collected and exported to approved facilities abroad. Moreover, mercury and mercury containing products are controlled by customs at entry point (Seaport and Airport). In terms of monitoring of the environmental media, the National Environmental Laboratory will carry out air quality analysis for presence of mercury in the air.

A Mercury Initial Assessment Report was prepared in 2018 and this includes an action plan for the implementation of additional measures to be in line with the Minamata Convention. Mauritius has secured funding under GEF for the implementation of a project entitled 'Implementing Sustainable, Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)'. The main objective of this project is the sound management of chemicals and wastes addressed through strengthening the capacity of sub-national, national and regional institutions and strengthening the enabling policy and regulatory framework. The project will also implement main activities identified in the Mercury Action Plan. The project duration is five years (September 2022 to September 2027).

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.

Mauritius is still a developing country.

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

Mauritius is still a developing country.

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

It is to be noted that Mauritius, being a developing country, also forms part of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and needs capacity-building and technology transfer to address the challenges faced in the management of waste, including waste containing mercury and mercury compounds.

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

Yes

No

Please specify

The Republic of Mauritius has benefitted financial and technical assistance from GEF to carry out the Minamata Initial Assessment project 2018, which includes an inventory at national level and an action plan. Mauritius has also benefitted financial assistance from UNITAR for the Early Ratification of the Convention in 2016/2018.

Additionally, under the regional project Implementing Sustainable Low and non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS), the capacity of the National Environmental Laboratory has been enhanced to monitor flue gases for mercury, including procurement of equipment.

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 provide information

It is to be noted that Mauritius, being a developing country, also forms part of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and needs capacity-building and technology transfer to address the challenges faced in the management of waste, including waste containing mercury and mercury compounds.

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.

- The Republic of Mauritius has under the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) project 2018 carried out several training and awareness activities for main stakeholder in sectors dealing with mercury products, namely the Government bodies, importers, NGOs, jewellery and dentistry sector.
- Sensitisation and awareness campaigns on dangers of mercury; environmental and health impacts of mercury and alternatives were carried out for the public at large.
- The MIA project has been prepared in consultation with government institutions, private sectors, dentistry; NGOs and academia.

(Findings at Page 126, Level 2 Inventory of Republic of Mauritius Minamata Initial Assessment Report 2018.)

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.

The Republic of Mauritius has put in place the following measures:

- Mauritius has already established various standards imposing limitations on mercury content in fish and fish products, drinking water and effluent.
- Import of batteries containing mercury is prohibited under the Consumer Protection Regulations (1999).
- Mercury and its derivatives including agricultural chemicals are classified as extremely dangerous industrial chemicals under the Dangerous Chemicals Control Act (2004) and their import, use and disposal are strictly controlled.
- The Explosives Act dating as far back as 1959 and which defines “explosives” as “fulminate of mercury” amongst other things, and prohibits their manufacture unless a permit is granted by the Police Commissioner.
- The Toys (Safety) Regulations 1994, which provide for the protection of toy users against mercury.
- The Food Regulations 62 (1999), which restrict, amongst others, mercury in at least 59 items with a maximum permitted proportion of 0.03 parts per million.
- The Pharmacy Board issues permits to import skin-lightening creams and lotions to companies only after having received a certificate of analysis ruling out the presence of mercury in such products.
- The Ministry of Health has set a general practice for the last 10 years of not using dental amalgam in children below 10 years old and pregnant women.
- The Ministry of Health is no longer acquiring mercury containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers from use in public hospitals.
- The Ministry of Education has stopped purchasing mercury-containing thermometers for schools laboratories; and
- Recycling of gold and silver metal from the jewellery industry is now increasingly being undertaken by a specialised recycling and refining plant, which does not use mercury.

(Source: Republic of Mauritius Minamata Initial Assessment Report 2018).

Additionally, under the regional project Implementing Sustainable Low and non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS), an online mercury database (for uploading of studies and resource materials) is also under process for awareness raising of public.

Part E – Additional comments on this article

Training and awareness activities were carried out for main stakeholder in sectors dealing with mercury products, namely the Government bodies, importers, NGOs, jewellery and dentistry sector (Findings at Page 126, Level 2 Inventory of Republic of Mauritius Minamata Initial Assessment Report 2018).

▼ 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

Mauritius carried out the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA), with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The MIA project comprised four main outputs, namely: (i) a level 2 mercury inventory; (ii) a legal and institutional gap analysis, (iii) a communications plan, and (iv) a national implementation plan.

Under this project, a series of information exchanged was undertaken between authorities, namely, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Customs Department, the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection, and the Ministry of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives to come up with the following analysis/findings:

- (a) a level 2 mercury inventory for the year 2014;
- (b) analysis of some hair samples taken from relevant stakeholders;
- (c) analysis of fish and fish products.

Under the MIA Project, public awareness at large was also undertaken. (Please refer to information provided for Art. 18: Public information, awareness and education)

The MIA Report for Mauritius is available on the Minamata Convention on Mercury Webpage.

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

Any information, if available, as may be requested by the Secretariat on any provision of the Convention, will be submitted accordingly.

▼ 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
- 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

1. All jewellers (400), which include all local manufacturers and exporters in this sector, were sensitized on health effects of mercury and availability of alternatives to mercury in the jewellery sector. Pamphlets were also circulated to all of them;
2. All dental practitioners (342) from both public and private sectors were sensitized on the health effects of dental amalgam and its alternatives. Posters were also circulated to them and same are being displayed in their consultation room;
3. All registers NGOs of the Department of Environment (42) were sensitized on the dangers of mercury and availability of its alternatives awareness raising workshop; and
4. The public at large were sensitized on the dangers of mercury in our daily activities at household level and its alternatives, through video clips broadcasted in public buses (74) for a period of 3 months.

(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
- 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

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

1. During the implementation of the Mercury Initial Assessment project, the following activities were undertaken:
- (a) a level 2 mercury inventory for the 2014 calendar year:
- (i) total input of mercury was estimated to be 760 kg;
 - (ii) total estimated emissions and releases of mercury was 671 kg.
- (b) analysis of some hair samples taken from relevant stakeholders:
- (i) 48 samples of hair (27 males and 21 females) from different stakeholders and the normal population were analysed.
 - (ii) The mercury levels ranged from non-detectable (< 0.0041 mg/kg) to 11.31 mg/kg with a mean of 1.17 mg/kg.
 - (iii) 31% of the samples exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guideline of 1 mg/kg.
 - (iv) Females were found to have a higher mean (1.54 mg/kg) compared to males (0.78 mg/kg).
 - (v) The sample having the highest level, namely 11.31 mg/kg, was taken from a female working in the jewellery sector.
 - (vi) A higher mercury prevalence was observed in population sample with fish consumption diet both for Mauritius and Rodrigues.
 - (vii) Two vegetarians had non-detectable mercury hair contents.

2. The mercury content in coal is monitored for each consignment whereby the coal importer of the

country submits the 'Certificate of Sampling and Analysis of Shipment of Coal'. The results include an analysis of mercury content in each consignment. The average level of mercury in coal consignments (from 2017 to 2020) was 0.087 mg/kg (standard deviation = 0.025 mg/kg), with a minimum level of 0.012 mg/kg and a maximum level of 0.146 mg/kg.

- 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

Challenges identified in the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) Report 2018 are mainly in connection with improved information collection and monitoring of imported goods. It is to be noted that Mauritius does not manufacture products that are prohibited under the Convention. Hence, there is a need at international level for more stringent control at point of manufacture of these prohibited products. This will be beneficial for Mauritius, being a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), who otherwise is normally at the receiving end of the negative impacts of manufacturers/producers of mercury.

A Mercury Action Plan was also part of the MIA Report and elaborates on actions to be implemented at National Level to be in line with the Convention. Same has been budgeted to the tune of USD 1,315,000 in 2018. Mauritius has secured funding under GEF for the implementation of a project entitled 'Implementing Sustainable, Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) which will also include main activities identified in the Mercury Action Plan .

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

Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

Mauritius recognises the significant effort made by the Convention and its Secretariat in the preparation of the online reporting format for parties to meet its obligation under Article 21 – Reporting of the Minamata Convention.

Mauritius, being a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), has no:

- artisanal and small-scale gold mining;
- industry making use of mercury or mercury compounds; and

- involvement in the extraction of mercury.

As such certain provisions of the Convention do not apply for Mauritius. However, it is observed that the 'Not-applicable' option is not always available for such scenarios in the Online Reporting format.