2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 9 February 2026
*Questions 3.3, 4.1, and 11.1 amended by Panama on 6 March 2026

REPORTING PERIOD:
1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024

UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION
Attachments can be found on the website

DISCLAIMER

This is a secretariat version translation of the submitted report by the Party. The text has not been officially translated and edited, and is provided for information purposes. In case of any error or omission in the translation, the original submission prevails.

▼ INFORMATION ON THE PARTY

1. Information on the party

Name of party
Panama

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited
29 September 2015

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 Health

Title of Contact Officer
Environmental Sanitation Technician

Name of Contact Officer
Luis Gilberto Montalbán Iberico

Mailing address
Address: Former Gorgas Hospital, Culebra Street, Ancón. Telephone: 512-9200.
All rights reserved. Ministry of Health of the Republic of Panama © 2012-2025.

Telephone number
+507 512-9131

Fax number
{Empty}

E-mail
lmontalban@minsa.gob.pa

Second E-mail
luigimontalvan@gmail.com

Web page
https://www.minsa.gob.pa

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

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

The Republic of Panama confirms that it does not possess any individual stockpiles of mercury exceeding the 50 metric ton threshold. It reports that current inventories consist of environmental liabilities and judicial seizures (approximately 260 kg) that have been stabilized and placed under secure state custody in a purpose-built bunker. The country maintains active monitoring and inter-institutional coordination protocols between the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Security, and the Public Prosecutor's Office to ensure that any future findings are identified, recorded, and managed under environmentally sound storage guidelines, strictly adhering to the health and environmental protection standards promoted by the Convention, while simultaneously exploring export options for final 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.
The legal basis for the restrictions in Panama is Executive Decree 1688 (2020), which establishes prohibitions and restrictions on products with added mercury. Furthermore, Panama has moved forward with a ban on the import of dental amalgam, effective January 2025, and restricts mercury in cosmetics to less than 1 ppm.

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.
Dental amalgam is excluded, not permitted, or recommended for the dental treatment of deciduous teeth in patients under 15 years of age and in pregnant or breastfeeding women.

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.
Under the authority of the General Directorate of Health and the National Directorate of Dentistry, guidelines have been issued that restrict the use of amalgams in children, pregnant women and breastfeeding women, except in cases of absolute clinical need, prioritizing alternative materials.

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.
Pursuant to Article 8 of Executive Decree 1688 of 2020, the manufacture of products with added mercury is prohibited within the national territory. Furthermore, their distribution is discouraged through the denial of sanitary registrations and marketing permits for products that do not have a recognized essential use or safe alternatives.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Panama has strengthened its legal framework through the enactment of Executive Decree No. 1688 of 2020, which serves as the primary regulation for restricting and prohibiting products with added mercury in the country. This decree, in conjunction with Law 21 of 2015, allows for effective control over the import and sale of medical and measuring devices. In the field of dentistry, the Ministry of Health has implemented strategies to reduce the use of amalgam fillings, with a special emphasis on protecting vulnerable populations (children and pregnant women), achieving a gradual transition to mercury-free restorative materials. The country maintains close monitoring through the General Directorate of Environmental Health to ensure that no new products with added mercury that do not comply with the provisions of the Convention are introduced.

▼ 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

- [x] 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
- [x] Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

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

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [x] 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
- [x] Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

SODIUM OR POTASSIUM METHYLATE OR ETHYLATE

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [x] Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

PRODUCTION OF POLYURETHANE USING MERCURY-CONTAINING CATALYSTS

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [x] 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.

If yes, please provide information on the measures taken.
Panama actively discourages these activities through its Environmental Impact Assessment system (Ministry of Environment) and the Ministry of Health's chemical control measures. Executive Decree 1688 of 2020 prohibits the establishment of any new industrial activity that involves the use of elemental mercury or its compounds in production processes.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Panama confirms that, historically and currently, it has no industrial facilities producing chlor-alkali, vinyl chloride monomer, acetaldehyde, or polyurethane that use mercury as a catalyst or electrode. National policy, reinforced by Executive Decree No. 1688 of 2020, prohibits the manufacture and establishment of new industrial processes that intentionally use mercury. Furthermore, Law 21 of 2015 incorporates these prohibitions into the national legal framework, ensuring that the country's industrial development remains free of mercury-dependent technologies. Any new industrial project within the national territory is subject to rigorous assessments that prevent the use of this substance, in accordance with the State's international commitments.

▼ 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.
Panama has taken preventive and control measures. According to the MIA report (2019), although gold mining in Panama is primarily industrial (concessions), artisanal and subsistence mining activities have been identified in areas such as Darién and Veraguas. Executive Decree 1688 of 2020 (Art. 12) explicitly prohibits the use of mercury in mining activities, and the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MICI), monitors the situation to ensure that mercury amalgam is not used in gold processing.

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

In the Republic of Panama, gold mining is governed by the Mineral Resources Code, and the use of mercury in any phase of mining activity is strictly prohibited by Executive Decree No. 1688 of 2020. According to the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA, 2019), estimated emissions from artisanal mining are minimal compared to other categories, and the State has not determined that this activity is 'more than negligible' according to the Convention's criteria. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Commerce and Industries maintain inspection protocols to ensure that subsistence mining communities use gravimetric methods or mercury-free technologies, thereby protecting watersheds and the health of rural populations.

▼ 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

Waste incineration facilities
Through Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes led by the Ministry of Environment and the air quality standards of the Ministry of Health (MINSA), all new industrial facilities in these categories are required to implement Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP). Decree 1688 (Art. 15) reinforces the obligation to adopt technologies that minimize mercury emissions.

- ☑ Cement clinker production facilities

Cement clinker production facilities
Panama applies emission limits and operational controls. The country uses the National Emissions Inventory (based on the UNEP Toolkit) to monitor these sources. Cement plants in Panama have integrated filter systems and process controls that have optimized the reduction of particulate emissions, which indirectly reduces mercury.

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
Through Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes led by the Ministry of Environment and the air quality standards of the Ministry of Health (MINSA), all new industrial facilities in these categories are required to implement Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP). Decree 1688 (Art. 15) reinforces the obligation to adopt technologies that minimize mercury emissions.

8.2: Identify any Annex D source categories for which there are existing sources of emissions of mercury or mercury compounds as defined in paragraph 2 (e) of article 8.

For each of those source categories, select and provide details on the measures implemented under paragraph 5 of article 8 and explain the progress that these applied measures have achieved in reducing emissions over time in your territory:

▼ COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

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

Measures
{Empty}

Progress
{Empty}

▼ COAL-FIRED INDUSTRIAL BOILERS

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

Measures
{Empty}

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
{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

☐ 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}

▼ 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?
8 April 2019

Please indicate where this inventory is available
Panama completed its national emissions inventory in 2019, which is detailed in the document "Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)." This inventory identifies key sources and quantifies annual emissions using the UNEP standardized methodology.

Attach

- PAN_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

Panama has a robust national emissions inventory, updated in 2019 (MIA Report), which identifies cement production and waste management as the most significant anthropogenic sources of air emissions. The national regulatory framework, based on Law 21 of 2015 and Executive Decree 1688 of 2020, mandates the adoption of control and prevention measures. Currently, the government requires that any new project in the categories of Annex D comply with Best Available Techniques (BAT) standards through the environmental licensing process. Furthermore, efforts are underway to strengthen the Air Quality Monitoring Network to improve the accuracy of data on ambient mercury in industrial and urban areas.

▼ ART. 9: RELEASES

9.1: Are there, within the party's territory, relevant sources of releases as defined in paragraph 2 (b) of article 9?

◉ Yes

○ No

○ Do not know (please explain)

Please indicate the measures taken to address releases from relevant sources and the effectiveness of those measures.
Panama has identified relevant sources of releases, primarily associated with waste management and product use. According to the MIA report (2019), the identified sources include solid waste disposal in landfills and dumps (such as Cerro Patacón), as well as wastewater management. Executive Decree 1688 of 2020 (Art. 16) establishes that the Ministry of Health (MINSA) and the Ministry of Environment (MiAmbiente) must coordinate the control of these releases to prevent contamination of aquifers and soils.

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?
8 April 2019

Please indicate where this inventory is available.
PAN_9.2.pdf

Please explain
{Empty}

Part E - Additional comments on this article

The Republic of Panama has identified its sources of mercury release into water and soil through the Minamata Initial Assessment (2019). The most significant sources are linked to municipal solid waste management and wastewater treatment. Under Executive Decree 1688 of 2020, the country has strengthened the monitoring of these environmental liabilities. It is important to note that Panama does not have large-scale mining industries or heavy chemical processes that generate large-scale direct industrial releases. Therefore, national efforts are focused on improving the management of final waste and raising awareness about the proper disposal of mercury-containing products to prevent leaching into landfills and water sources.

▼ ART. 10: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND INTERIM STORAGE OF MERCURY, OTHER THAN WASTE MERCURY

10.1: Has the party taken measures to ensure that the interim storage of non-waste mercury and mercury compounds intended for a use allowed to a party under the Convention is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No (please explain)
- ( ) Do not know (please explain)

If yes, please indicate the measures taken to ensure that such interim storage is undertaken in an environmentally sound manner, and the effectiveness of those measures.
Panama has implemented rigorous measures through the Ministry of Health. The country has a centralized technical custody facility (Bunker 13132 - DOE, Cocolí) specifically designed for the safe storage of elemental mercury and its compounds. This facility complies with secondary containment protocols, controlled ventilation, material segregation, and continuous surveillance by the National Police. Furthermore, Executive Decree 1688 of 2020 (Articles 17 and 18) establishes mandatory guidelines for all temporary storage to comply with the Convention's directives and national chemical safety standards.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

The Republic of Panama has established a state custody model for the temporary storage of elemental mercury. Under the coordination of the General Directorate of Environmental Health and the Convention Focal Point, a secure bunker was operationalized at the Cocolí Air Base, which serves as the national collection center for mercury stockpiles (primarily confiscated materials and environmental liabilities). This facility has a bimonthly mercury vapor monitoring program, leachate control using technical containment trays, and an annual preventive maintenance schedule. These measures ensure that temporary storage is carried out in an environmentally sound manner,

minimizing the risk of exposure to the population and the environment, in accordance with the guidelines of the Conference of the Parties.

▼ 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
Panama has implemented measures to ensure the environmentally sound management of mercury waste. Executive Decree 1688 of 2020 (Articles 19, 20, and 21) regulates the handling, transport, and storage of mercury waste. Furthermore, the country adheres to the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Mercury, ensuring that collected waste (such as fluorescent lamps and obsolete medical devices) is stored in controlled facilities under proper technical and temporary conditions until its final disposal.

☐ 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.
Panama has implemented measures to ensure the environmentally sound management of mercury waste. Executive Decree 1688 of 2020 (Articles 19, 20, and 21) regulates the handling, transport, and storage of mercury waste. Furthermore, the country adheres to the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Mercury, ensuring that collected waste (such as fluorescent lamps and obsolete medical devices) is stored in controlled facilities under safe and temporary conditions until final disposal. Additional projects are underway for the safe management and final disposal of this hazardous waste.

11.2: *Are there facilities for final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds in the party's territory?

◉ Yes

○ No

○ Do not know (please explain)

If the party answered yes to any measures above, please select from the following

☐ Yes - there are facilities in the party's territory

☑ Yes - there are facilities outside the party's territory accessible to the party (in accordance with paragraph 5 of article 11)

Kindly attach any additional relevant information
{Empty}

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Mercury waste management in the Republic of Panama is governed by Executive Decree No. 1688 of 2020, which establishes extended producer responsibility and the safe handling of this waste. The country has centralized the custody of elemental mercury waste at Bunker 13132 (Cocolí) to prevent accidental releases while coordinating export processes for its final disposal. Panama actively utilizes the mechanisms of the Basel Convention for the transboundary movement of this waste to

international facilities that offer stabilization technologies and environmentally sound disposal, given the absence of such facilities within the country. These efforts ensure that mercury waste is not disposed of in municipal landfills, thus protecting public health and local ecosystems.

▼ 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
Panama has initiated this process through the Minamata Initial Environmental Assessment (MIA, 2019), which included a preliminary inventory of potentially contaminated sites. The identification strategies are based on the history of industrial activities and waste management practices. Sites of interest have been identified as follows:

former and current solid waste dumps (especially the Cerro Patacón Sanitary Landfill);

areas with a history of gold mining (Darién and Veraguas);

and areas where environmental liabilities are stored. Executive Decree 1688 of 2020 (Art. 22) formalizes the obligation of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment to collaborate in the identification and risk assessment of these sites to protect human health and the environment.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

The Republic of Panama has taken the first steps toward managing contaminated sites by developing the National Mercury Profile (2019), which identifies priority areas based on historical waste management and mining activities. The country is currently strengthening its technical capacity for risk assessment at these sites. Under Executive Decree No. 1688 of 2020, inter-institutional cooperation is being promoted to create a more comprehensive national inventory of contaminated sites. International assessment guidelines are also being applied to determine the need for control or remediation measures, prioritizing sites near water sources or human settlements to prevent chronic exposure of the population.

▼ 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
Panama, through the General State Budget, allocates funds to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment for activities related to the monitoring and control of chemical substances and the management of environmental liabilities. These resources have enabled the creation and maintenance of the secure storage infrastructure (Bunker 13132), the technical training of inspectors, and the development of the Initial Minamata Environmental Assessment (MIA). Executive Decree 1688 of 2020 operationalizes these functions, which have institutional administrative and financial support.

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.
As a recipient of technical assistance and a country with an economy in transition for the purposes of the Agreement, Panama has not made direct financial contributions to the GEF Trust Fund or the Specific International Program. However, the country contributes in kind, providing technical personnel, facilities, and logistical support for the implementation of projects financed by these international mechanisms within its national territory.

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
Panama is currently focused on strengthening its own national capacities and managing its internal mercury inventories.

Please provide comments, if any.
Therefore, it has not acted as a donor of bilateral financial resources to other countries for the implementation of the Convention.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Panama ensures the sustainability of the Minamata Convention's implementation by integrating mercury monitoring activities into the Ministry of Health's annual operating plans (AOPs). The country's significant financial commitment to ensuring the technical custody and continuous monitoring of mercury stockpiles in Bunker 13132 is noteworthy, representing a direct investment in chemical safety and public health. Furthermore, Panama has optimized the use of international cooperation received from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to complete its national assessment, demonstrating efficient and transparent use of the financial mechanism's resources to advance its international commitments.

▼ 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
Panama is currently in the phase of strengthening its own institutional and technical capacities. Therefore, it has not acted as a formal provider of bilateral technical assistance to other Parties under Article 14 during this reporting period.

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

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

Please specify
Panama has received technical assistance and capacity building through projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNDP. A key milestone was the "Initial Assessment of the

Minamata Convention" (MIA) project, which enabled the training of Ministry of Health staff in the preparation of mercury inventories (Toolkit Level 1 and 2).

Please provide comments, if any.
Support has also been received for the development of regulatory frameworks, which resulted in the promulgation of Executive Decree No. 1688 of 2020, strengthening the capacity for health surveillance and control.

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
The country is actively promoting the technological transition, especially in the health sector. The Ministry of Health has facilitated access to mercury-free alternative technologies through:

the promotion of digital medical devices (thermometers and sphygmomanometers) as replacements for mercury-based devices;

the promotion of alternative dental restorative materials (resins and ionomers) within the public dental network;

and the dissemination of technical guidelines on Best Available Techniques (BAT) for the industrial sector, aligned with Article 15 of Decree 1688, to reduce emissions and releases.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Panama recognizes the importance of international technical assistance for achieving the goals of the Convention. Thanks to the support of the GEF and implementing agencies, the country has institutionalized the safe management of mercury by training its environmental health inspectors and laboratory personnel. This strengthening has enabled the creation of national protocols for safe interim storage in Bunker 13132. The State continues to facilitate the adoption of clean technologies in the health and commercial sectors, restricting the import of products with added mercury and promoting the use of digital alternatives and biocompatible materials, ensuring that technology transfer directly contributes to reducing national chemical risk.

▼ 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.
Panama, through the Ministry of Health (MINSA), has developed awareness campaigns and disseminated information aimed at the general population and specific groups. Of particular note is the publication and dissemination of the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA, 2019), which identifies the main sources of mercury exposure in the country. In addition, training sessions have been held for healthcare professionals, and informational materials have been distributed regarding the risks of mercury in consumer products (such as cosmetics and medical devices) and the importance of transitioning to safer alternatives, as stipulated in Article 25 of Executive Decree 1688 of 2020.

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 Panamanian State has implemented concrete public health actions, such as:

Replacement of supplies: The Ministry of Health (MINSA) has led the transition from mercury sphygmomanometers and thermometers to digital devices in the public health network to eliminate the risk of exposure from breakage.

Dental protocols: Guidelines have been issued to restrict the use of dental amalgams in vulnerable populations (children and pregnant women), promoting the use of biocompatible resins.

Epidemiological surveillance: The capacities of national laboratories for monitoring heavy metals have been strengthened, and response protocols for chemical incidents have been established, ensuring the technical custody of confiscated materials in Bunker 13132 to prevent accidental exposure of communities.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

In the Republic of Panama, protecting human health from mercury exposure is a strategic priority led by the Ministry of Health. Thanks to the implementation of Executive Decree No. 1688 of 2020, the country has institutionalized the prohibition of products with added mercury that posed a latent risk in homes and hospitals. Strengthening the capacities of healthcare personnel through technical training programs and the adoption of mercury-free dental materials demonstrate a commitment that goes beyond simply providing information, focusing on primary prevention. Panama continues working on integrating biomonitoring in risk areas identified in the MIA (2019) to ensure proactive surveillance and effective protection of the Panamanian population.

▼ 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
Panama, through the Ministry of Health and its National Focal Point, actively facilitates the exchange of technical, scientific, and legal information on mercury. The country participates in the Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings and in regional working groups for Latin America and the Caribbean. Internally, Article 24 of Executive Decree 1688 of 2020 mandates the creation of information exchange mechanisms among government institutions (MINSA, MiAmbiente, Customs, MICI) to share data on inventories, seizures, and technological alternatives. Furthermore, the results of the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA, 2019) have been shared with international organizations and strategic partners to strengthen knowledge management.

☐ 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

The Republic of Panama maintains open and ongoing communication channels with the Minamata Convention Secretariat and other Parties in the region to exchange best practices in stockpile and waste management. The National Focal Point serves as a liaison for collecting and disseminating information on mercury risks and available technical alternatives. During the reporting period, Panama prioritized the exchange of technical information related to the stabilization of environmental liabilities and the implementation of national regulatory frameworks, using the Convention platform to report significant progress such as the enactment of Executive Decree No. 1688 of 2020 and the results of the national inventory of emissions and releases.

▼ 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
Panama has implemented various public awareness measures led by the Ministry of Health (MINSA). These include:

Risk Dissemination: Publication and distribution of the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) report to inform the public about mercury emission sources and health effects.

Oral Health Campaigns: Educating patients in public dental clinics about the benefits of alternatives to dental amalgam.

Labeling and Consumption: Raising awareness about products with added mercury (such as certain cosmetics and lamps) to promote safe disposal and responsible consumption.

Legal Framework: Article 25 of Executive Decree 1688 of 2020 mandates that competent authorities develop education and communication programs on the dangers of mercury and its compounds, promoting citizen participation in chemical risk management.

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

Part E - Additional comments on this article

The Republic of Panama has integrated mercury awareness into its national environmental health promotion programs. The Ministry of Health uses digital platforms and in-person workshops to educate the public on identifying products with added mercury and the importance of preventing breakage or improper disposal. Specific workshops have been developed for healthcare professionals, teachers, and communities near areas of environmental concern identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA, 2019). The national approach, supported by Executive Decree No. 1688 of 2020, prioritizes transparency and access to information as fundamental tools for public active participation in reducing chemical risk, fostering a safety culture that supports the transition to mercury-free technologies in the country.

▼ 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
Development of the emissions and releases inventory using the UNEP Toolkit (Levels 1 and 2), which made it possible to identify critical sources and quantify the presence of mercury in the country (MIA, 2019).

☐ Modelling and geographically representative monitoring of levels of mercury and mercury compounds in vulnerable populations and in environmental media, including biotic media such as fish, marine mammals, sea turtles and birds, as well as collaboration in the collection and exchange of relevant and appropriate samples

☑ Assessments of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, in addition to social, economic and cultural impacts, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations

Assessments of the impact of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment, in addition to social, economic and cultural impacts, particularly in respect of vulnerable populations
Monitoring the presence of mercury in environmental matrices (especially water) through the laboratories of the Ministry of Health and the Gorgas Memorial Institute.

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

Harmonized methodologies for the activities undertaken under subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 1 of article 19
The country has investigated mercury cycles in domestic trade to establish the necessary baseline for Executive Decree 1688 of 2020.

☐ 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

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
The continuous and technical monitoring of mercury vapors in Bunker 13132 constitutes a preventive monitoring activity to protect the health of workers and the environment.

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

Part E - Additional comments on this article

The Republic of Panama has institutionalized the technical monitoring of mercury through the development of its National Mercury Profile, which serves as a foundational research tool for regulatory decision-making. The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with national research centers, maintains active surveillance of mercury levels in products and the environment. Of particular note is the development of technical studies for the stabilization of environmental liabilities stored in state custody, as well as participation in regional air monitoring projects. Under Article 25 of Executive Decree No. 1688 of 2020, scientific research aimed at identifying technological alternatives and studying the vulnerability of local populations is promoted, ensuring that public policies are based on up-to-date scientific evidence.

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

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

The Republic of Panama identifies the following critical challenges to the full achievement of the objectives of the Minamata Convention:

Transboundary Disposal: Panama lacks national facilities for the stabilization or final disposal of elemental mercury (waste category). Dependence on international markets and the complexity of procedures under the Basel Convention represent a logistical and financial challenge for the export of environmental liabilities currently stored in the state bunker.

Technological Substitution in the Health Sector: Although progress has been made in the public network, the complete transition to mercury-free medical devices in the private sector and in hard-to-reach rural areas requires incentive programs and more robust customs surveillance to prevent the entry of low-cost products that still contain mercury.

Strengthening Analytical Capabilities: It is necessary to improve the infrastructure of national laboratories for monitoring mercury in various environmental and biological matrices (biomonitoring) in order to obtain real-time data that allows for the evaluation of the effectiveness of implemented control measures.

Management of Contaminated Sites: The assessment and remediation of sites historically affected areas (such as solid waste dumps) require considerable technical and economic investment, for which the country seeks to strengthen mechanisms for technical cooperation and technology transfer.

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

Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

The Republic of Panama appreciates the availability of the electronic platform, which facilitates the organization of information. However, to improve future reporting cycles, the following points are

suggested:

Data Synchronization: It would be very useful if the format allowed for direct integration or preloading of data from the UNEP Toolkit (Mercury Inventories), to avoid duplication of effort when transcribing emissions and release data.

Flexibility in Attachments: It is recommended to allow the uploading of multiple supporting files in critical sections (such as Article 7 or Article 11), since documentary evidence often resides in different decrees or technical reports that complement the response.

Clarity in Area Sources: Greater detail is suggested in the guidance for distinguishing between 'new sources' and 'existing sources' in economies in transition, where minor industrial modifications are sometimes difficult to categorize under the current Annex D criteria.

Glossary of Terms: Include a dynamic technical glossary within the platform that clarifies the specific thresholds required for each item, facilitating the work of the inter-agency technical teams that provide information to the Focal Point.