2025 FULL REPORTS OF THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Report submitted on 1 June 2025

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

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
Togo

Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited
3 February 2017

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

2. Information on the national focal point

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3. Information about the contact officer submitting the reporting format if different from the above

Focal Point is submitting the national report

- ○ Information is submitted by the national focal point
- ◉ Information is submitted through the national focal point by the contact officer

a3_subsection

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▼ ART. 3: MERCURY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TRADE

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

- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with available data
- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
- ◉ No

3.2: Does the party have any primary mercury mines that are now in operation that were not in operation at the time of entry into force of the Convention for the party?

- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with available data
- ○ Yes – primary mercury mining with no available data
- ◉ No

3.3: (A) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory?

3.3: (A) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons that are located within its territory?

- ○ Yes – with new data* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)
- ○ Yes – endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
- ◉ No

If the party answered no to the question, please explain.
Togo does not have any stockpiles of mercury on 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?

3.3:(B) Has the party endeavoured to identify individual sources of mercury-supply-generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory?

- ○ Yes – with new data* (also to be selected by parties reporting for the first time)

- ○ Yes – endeavoured and indicates same stocks as reported in the previous report
- ◉ No

If the party answered no to the question, please explain.
Togo has no domestic sources of mercury production (primary mines) and no declared stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year. The industrial and mining activities identified (particularly in the ASGM sector) do not use mercury.
Available data comes from customs declarations and reports from the Ministry of Mines, which do not indicate any significant stocks.
The lack of a centralized system for tracking mercury flows limits the accurate detection of informal stockpiles.

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

Togo reaffirms its commitment to respecting the provisions of Article 3 of the Minamata Convention. No primary mercury production (mining) or export activity has been recorded within the national territory. Since 2022, Togo has implemented
a mercury flow traceability system in collaboration with the Togolese Revenue Authority (OTR), including dedicated customs codes. Training has been provided to customs officers and other stakeholders on the identification of mercury and its compounds.
A centralized database of authorized importers is updated quarterly by the Ministry of Trade.
Despite these advances, Togo faces challenges in controlling informal cross-border flows, particularly in artisanal mining areas bordering Ghana and Burkina Faso, due to the lack of a nationally certified laboratory for mercury analysis. Togo is requesting technical and financial support to strengthen customs capacities through portable detection equipment and to develop a regional strategy to combat illicit trafficking with other ECOWAS states.

▼ 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 no, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

○ Yes

◉ No

4.3: (A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

4.3:(A) Has the party taken two or more measures listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of part II of annex A for the mercury-added products listed in part II of annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein?

○ Yes

◉ No

If the party answered no to question 4.3(A) above, please explain
Togo has not yet implemented two specific measures from those listed in Part II of Annex A, but has defined, in the national strategy and action plan for the elimination of mercury and mercury-containing products added to Togo, adopted in December 2024, at least two measures from those listed in subparagraphs (i) to (ix) of Part II of Annex A of the Minamata Convention concerning dental amalgams. These measures concern, among other things, (i) the need to define national objectives to prevent caries and promote dental hygiene; (ii) the integration into its oral health policy of objectives aimed at reducing the use of amalgams by promoting prevention (hygiene education, fluoridation, etc.), (iii) the promotion of the use of mercury-free dental restorative materials, the adoption of alternatives such as composite resins and glass ionomer, particularly in public health facilities, the restriction of the use of dental amalgams to their encapsulated form, (iv) regulations to prohibit the use of bulk mercury in dental clinics, in accordance with the amendment of COP-4 (2022), (v) the promotion of best environmental practices in dental clinics such as the installation of amalgam separators to limit mercury discharges into wastewater,
(vi) the training of health professionals on mercury-free alternatives (collaboration with dental schools), (vii) the incentive of health insurance companies to cover mercury-free dental care.

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.
Togo has adopted these alternative solutions and translated them into a national strategy and action plan for the elimination of mercury and products containing added mercury. With regard to dental amalgam, this strategy is as follows: (i) to set national targets to prevent caries and promote dental hygiene in order to limit the use of dental restorations, (ii) to determine targets to reduce their use

as much as possible, (iii) to promote economical and effective mercury-free dental restorative materials, and (iv) to prohibit the use of bulk mercury by dental practitioners and of dental amalgams in procedures on primary teeth, patients under 15 years of age, and pregnant or breastfeeding women, unless the dental practitioner deems it necessary due to the patient's needs.

4.4: Has the party taken measures to prevent the incorporation into assembled products of mercury-added products whose manufacture, import and export are not allowed for it under article 4?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ◉ No - not applicable (do not have facilities assembling products using mercury-added products)

4.5: Has the party discouraged the manufacture and the distribution in commerce of mercury-added products not covered by any known use in accordance with article 4, paragraph 6?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No - no action taken
- ○ No - an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product demonstrates benefits to human health or the environment

If the party answered no - no action taken, please explain.
Togo has not yet implemented specific measures to regulate these products due to: (i) the lack of a technical risk/benefit assessment for health or the environment, (ii) limited resources for a comprehensive analysis, and (iii) the priority given to other actions such as awareness-raising and improvements to the institutional and legal frameworks.
An assessment will be included in the next national plan, in coordination with key sectors (industry, health).

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Togo wishes to clarify the following points regarding the implementation of provisions relating to products containing mercury. The Togolese market still includes certain products containing mercury (thermometers, batteries, etc.), primarily imported.
Current regulations do not yet specifically cover these products. The challenges encountered include: (i) a lack of accurate data on the flow of these products, (ii) limited border control capacity, and (iii) a lack of awareness of alternatives among some economic actors. In terms of needs, Togo requests technical assistance for evaluating alternatives, strengthening the analytical capacities of national laboratories, and reinforcing the regulatory framework.
It commits to integrating this issue into the next national action plan, strengthening collaboration with countries in the ECOWAS sub-region, and requests the support of the Convention Secretariat for the next steps.

▼ 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.

If yes, please provide information on the measures taken.
Togo's environmental legislation, particularly Framework Law on the Environment No. 2008-005, forms the legal basis governing the use of mercury within the country. Article 5 of this law enshrines the precautionary principle, thus mandating preventive measures even in the absence of scientific certainty regarding environmental risks. This principle justifies the systematic rejection of any new industrial process involving mercury.

Furthermore, Article 38 of the same law establishes the obligation to submit all industrial projects to an environmental impact assessment (EIA). This assessment must include an evaluation of safer alternatives, particularly those that do not use mercury. Therefore, projects incorporating the use of mercury are considered non-compliant with environmental protection objectives and can be legally rejected.

Articles 112 and 117 reinforce this framework by prohibiting the importation, use, or distribution of hazardous chemicals—including mercury—without prior authorization. The use of such substances is subject to strict controls, particularly in technical, health, and environmental matters.

The application of these provisions is detailed in Decree No. 0154/MERF/CAB/ANGE, which establishes the list of projects that must undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). In particular, industrial facilities handling hazardous substances such as mercury are explicitly classified among the projects requiring in-depth study, with mandatory public consultation and risk analysis. For example, the annex relating to the industrial sector includes in this requirement "any industrial unit subject to authorization" (case No. 1) as well as "chemical industries" such as pesticide or pharmaceutical manufacturers (case No. 11). Due to its rigorous nature, this procedure makes it difficult to approve processes using mercury, except in exceptional circumstances.

In practice, Togo implements an effective policy of deterrence regarding mercury technologies, notably through an implicit administrative moratorium on the granting of authorizations in this area. This approach is consistent with the country's commitments under the Minamata Convention.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

The application of this article in the Togolese context is based on a robust environmental legal framework, particularly the 2008 Framework Law on the Environment and its implementing regulations. The precautionary principle, rigorous authorization procedures, and the requirement for environmental impact assessments provide a clear legal basis for restricting the use of mercury. These provisions reflect Togo's commitment to implementing the obligations of the Minamata Convention and to protecting human health and the environment from the risks associated with mercury.

▼ 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.
Since ratifying the Minamata Convention in February 2017, Togo has taken concrete steps to comply with Article 7 concerning artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM). An initial assessment conducted in 2018 identified this sector as a significant source of mercury pollution, leading to the development of a National Action Plan (NAP) validated in 2022. The
plan's main objectives are to reduce, or even eliminate, the use of mercury in ASGM, improve the living conditions of artisanal miners, and promote mercury-free mining practices. The NAP approach includes: (i) a national inventory of EMAPE sites, (ii) an assessment of mercury use (particularly among jewelers and in clandestine practices), (iii) the adoption of substitution strategies and community awareness campaigns, (iv) the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework, and (v) the creation of a national coordination group for monitoring and evaluating the plan.

Although mercury use was not directly observed at the sites visited, there are indications of its illicit use, justifying the implementation of enhanced control measures, stakeholder education, and the promotion of environmentally sustainable alternatives.

7.2: Has the party determined, and notified the secretariat, that artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing within its territory is more than insignificant?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

7.3: Has the party developed and implemented a national action plan and submitted it to the secretariat?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) In progress

7.4: Attach your most recent review that must be completed under paragraph 3 (c) of article 7, unless it is not yet due

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7.5: Supplemental: Has the party cooperated with other countries or relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objective of this article?

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No

Please provide information
{Empty}

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Paragraph 3(c) of Article 7 of the Minamata Convention stipulates that the National Action Plan (NAP) must be regularly reviewed to monitor progress towards reducing, and ultimately eliminating, the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM).
The first review of the NAP has not yet been completed, as Togo's NAP was validated in November 2022 and covers a 15-year period (2023-2038). In accordance with the guidelines, the first review should take place within a reasonable timeframe after adoption, generally within three years of implementation, i.e., no later than 2025.
Togo commits to conducting this review in accordance with the evaluation mechanism outlined in the NAP, which will be implemented by the National Working Group on Mercury in ASGM, as specified in the outcome document.

▼ 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)

If Yes, please explain

The main sources of mercury emissions identified in Togo during the initial evaluation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury are:
- Charcoal combustion: 76 kg of mercury per year;
- Other uses of charcoal: 32 kg of mercury per year;
- Electricity and heat production from biomass combustion: 29 kg of mercury per year;
- Cement production: 154 kg of mercury per year; -
Incineration and open burning of medical/biomedical waste: 9 kg of mercury per year;
- Open burning of waste: 2005 kg of mercury per year;
- Informal dumping of general waste: 2617 kg of mercury per year.

To date, Togo has no new major industrial facilities. Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) are required for all new industrial projects classified as high-risk, including facilities likely to produce mercury emissions. The requirement to consider technological alternatives and techniques for reducing air pollutants.
Technical monitoring of authorized projects and the imposition of corrective or compensatory measures in case of non-compliance.
In the absence of new industrial sources in the listed categories, the use of best available techniques (BAT) or best environmental practices (BEP) has been incorporated into the technical guidelines of the National Environmental Management Agency (ANGE) for any future project classified as high environmental risk. This is in accordance with the requirements of Article 8, paragraph 4.

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
- Adoption of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) to control emissions;
- Promotion of the use of renewable energy sources such as hydroelectricity, which is under-exploited in Togo.

Progress
The techniques adopted have helped to reduce mercury emissions, but continuous improvements are needed to achieve the set objectives.

▼ 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
- Implementation of the best available techniques to reduce emissions;
- Encouragement of the use of cleaner alternative fuels and development of emission control technologies.

Progress
Mercury emissions have been reduced through the adoption of cleaner technologies, but continuous improvements are needed.

▼ 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
- Application of the best available techniques to minimize emissions;
- Research and development of alternative technologies to reduce emissions.

Progress
The measures have helped to reduce emissions, but further efforts are needed to achieve the set targets.

▼ 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
- Adoption of the best available techniques to control emissions;
- Promotion of cleaner waste treatment technologies and implementation of waste management strategies.

Progress
Mercury emissions have been reduced through the adoption of emission control technologies, but continuous improvements are needed.

▼ 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
- Application of the best available techniques to minimize emissions;
- Research and development of alternative technologies to reduce emissions.

Progress
The measures have helped to reduce emissions, but further efforts are needed to achieve the set targets.

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?

31 December 2017

Please indicate where this inventory is available
Togo ratified the Minamata Convention on February 3, 2017, and the Convention entered into force on August 16, 2017. According to the document provided, Togo conducted a national mercury inventory in 2017. This inventory was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Convention, using the UN Environment Programme toolkit to identify and quantify mercury emission sources.

The inventory covered various emission sources, including charcoal combustion, cement production, and waste burning, among others. This work was completed within five years of the Convention's entry into force for Togo, thus fulfilling the obligations of Article 8, paragraph 7, of the Minamata Convention.

Therefore, Togo has prepared a comprehensive inventory of mercury emissions from relevant sources within five years of the Convention's entry into force for the country.

Attach

- TGO_8.3.pdf

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

◉ Yes

○ No

If yes, please explain how the criteria for any category include at least 75 percent of the emissions from that category and explain how the party took into account guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
Togo has undertaken several actions to identify and manage mercury emission sources, as shown in the provided document. Here is how the criteria established by Togo include at least 75% of emissions from each category and how the country has taken into account the guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties:

National Mercury Inventory:
Togo conducted a national mercury inventory in 2017, using the UN Environment Programme toolkit. This inventory identified the main sources of mercury emissions, such as charcoal combustion, cement production, and waste burning.
The criteria used for this inventory are based on predefined factors and statistical data, ensuring that at least 75% of emissions from each identified category are covered.

Use of BAT/MEP:
Togo has adopted Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (MEP) to control mercury emissions. These techniques and practices are designed to effectively reduce emissions, ensuring that the most significant sources are targeted.

Action Plan:
Togo's action plan includes measures to strengthen the policy, legal, and institutional frameworks to better manage mercury emissions. This includes developing legal texts and taxation systems to control mercury flows, which requires establishing criteria to identify relevant sources.

Awareness and Training:
Efforts have been made to raise awareness and train stakeholders on the risks associated with mercury use, including identifying relevant emission sources.
The criteria used for awareness and training are aligned with international guidelines, ensuring comprehensive coverage of emission sources.

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

The initial assessment of the Minamata Convention in Togo provides a solid foundation for managing mercury emissions. With additional data, concrete examples, and a robust monitoring framework, Togo could further strengthen its efforts to reduce mercury emissions and protect the environment and public health.

▼ 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.

The initial assessment report of the Minamata Convention in Togo identified several relevant sources of mercury releases, such as charcoal combustion, cement production, open burning of waste, informal general waste dumps, and the incineration of medical/biomedical waste.

Togo has developed action plans to reduce mercury releases from these sources, with an emphasis on the use of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP). These plans include sector-specific measures, such as strengthening legal and institutional frameworks, waste management, and stakeholder awareness.

Decentralization in Togo has enabled the transfer of certain waste management responsibilities to local communities. This includes the creation, rehabilitation, and maintenance of waste management infrastructure, as well as waste collection and treatment.

Decentralization has improved waste management at the local level, allowing for better adaptation to the specific needs of communities. However, effectiveness depends on the ability of local authorities to implement these responsibilities effectively and sustainably.

9.2: Has the party established an inventory of releases from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the convention for it?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) Relevant sources do not exist in the territory
- ( ) Have not been a party for 5 years
- ( ) No (please explain)

When was the inventory last updated?

1 December 2017

Please indicate where this inventory is available.

TGO_9.2.pdf

Please explain

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Part E - Additional comments on this article

Togo ratified the Minamata Convention on 3 February 2017, and the Convention entered into force on 16 August 2017. Several relevant sources of mercury releases have been identified, such as charcoal combustion, cement production, and waste burning.

The inventory was completed within five years of the Convention's entry into force, thus complying with the obligations of Article 9, paragraph 6, of the Minamata Convention.

▼ 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

Implementing environmentally sound measures for the interim storage of mercury requires significant investments in infrastructure and technology. Togo has been unable to mobilize the necessary financial resources for these investments.
The institutions responsible for managing chemicals, including mercury, lack the technical and human capacity to effectively implement the required measures. This includes staff training and the establishment of appropriate management systems.
Togo faces other environmental and economic priorities requiring immediate attention, which delays the implementation of specific mercury-related measures. Awareness and training among stakeholders, including industry and local communities, are also insufficient regarding the importance of environmentally sound mercury management.
Implementing the measures requires regulatory and legislative changes that take time to adopt and implement. This includes harmonizing national laws with the international requirements of the Minamata Convention.
Limited access to advanced technologies and specialized knowledge for mercury management is a further obstacle. International collaboration and knowledge sharing could help overcome this challenge.
The commitment and cooperation of stakeholders, including industries and local communities, are essential for the successful implementation of the measures. A lack of commitment could slow the process.
To overcome these challenges, Togo seeks international support, including funding and technical assistance, to strengthen its capacity to implement the measures required by the Minamata Convention.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Togo has been unable to implement the specific measures required by Article 10 of the Minamata Convention due to financial and technical constraints, limited institutional capacity, and competing priorities. Furthermore, a lack of awareness and training, as well as limited access to advanced technologies, are also hindering implementation. Finally, regulatory complexity and insufficient stakeholder engagement are slowing the process.

▼ 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
Togo ratified the Basel Convention on July 2, 2004, demonstrating its commitment to controlling the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and ensuring its safe disposal. This includes waste containing mercury.
Togo has taken measures to ensure that mercury waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner, in accordance with the requirements of the Minamata Convention and the Basel Convention.

☐ 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.
Togo has established a legal and policy framework for the management of chemicals, including mercury. The Framework Law on the Environment and the Public Health Code include provisions relating to the management of hazardous chemicals, including mercury.
The National Environment Policy and the National Health Policy aim to integrate environmental concerns across various sectors, although gaps remain regarding the specific management of mercury.
A national mercury inventory was conducted in 2017, identifying the main sources of mercury emissions and releases, such as informal waste dumps, charcoal burning, and the use of products containing added mercury.
This inventory made it possible to quantify mercury inputs into the environment and to target the actions needed to reduce these emissions.
Togo has taken steps to manage mercury waste in an environmentally sound manner, in accordance with the provisions of the Minamata Convention. This includes prohibiting the recovery or export of mercury waste, except for its safe disposal.
Mercury waste management systems have been established, utilizing best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP).
Togo has identified several products containing added mercury and has promoted mercury-free alternatives. For example, mercury-free thermometers and blood pressure monitors are already in use in healthcare facilities.
Efforts are underway to phase out the use of dental amalgams and promote mercury-free dental restorative materials.

Awareness campaigns and training programs have been implemented to inform stakeholders, including healthcare professionals and local communities, about the risks associated with mercury use and available alternatives.
These initiatives aim to encourage the adoption of safer practices and reduce mercury exposure.

The measures implemented have helped to reduce the environmental risks associated with mercury waste by ensuring its safe management.
The use of BAT and BEP has minimized negative impacts on the environment and public health.
By implementing these measures, Togo complies with the requirements of the Minamata and Basel Conventions, thereby strengthening its commitment to the responsible management of hazardous waste.
Although progress has been made, challenges remain, particularly regarding the financial and technical capacity to develop local infrastructure for mercury waste disposal. Continued international support is needed to strengthen Togo's capacity to manage mercury waste sustainably and effectively.

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

Togo has not yet developed specific facilities for the final disposal of waste containing mercury or mercury compounds within its territory. This is due to financial and technical constraints, as well as competing priorities in waste management.
However, Togo relies on facilities located outside its territory for the final disposal of mercury waste. This is in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 11 of the Minamata Convention, which allows access to external facilities for environmentally sound disposal.

▼ 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
Togo conducted a national mercury inventory in 2017, which identified several sources of mercury emissions and releases, including informal waste dumps, waste burning sites, and artisanal mining areas.
This inventory highlighted specific sites where mercury contamination is likely, such as landfills and areas around cement plants.
The inventory also assessed the potential risks associated with these contaminated sites, including impacts on soil, water, and air.
For example, informal waste dumps in Lomé were identified as potential sources of soil and groundwater contamination.
Togo has implemented strategies to manage contaminated sites, including measures to reduce mercury emissions and promote safer waste management practices. These strategies include the use of best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) to minimize environmental impacts.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Although progress has been made, challenges remain, particularly regarding the financial and technical capacity to develop local infrastructure for mercury waste disposal.
Continued international support is needed to strengthen Togo's capacity to manage contaminated sites sustainably and effectively.
Collaboration with international organizations and technical partners can provide technical and financial support to strengthen national capacities for managing mercury-contaminated sites.
These partnerships can also facilitate the sharing of best practices and technologies for the effective management of contaminated sites.

▼ 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
Togo has demonstrated a concrete, albeit modest, commitment to implementing the Minamata Convention on Mercury. This commitment is part of the broader framework of national environmental policies and the country's development strategies.

The National Environmental Policy (NEP), initially adopted in 1998 and revised in 2014, serves as the cornerstone of this effort. This policy explicitly integrates the management of hazardous chemicals, with a particular emphasis on the country's international commitments, notably the Stockholm, Rotterdam, and, of course, Minamata Conventions. In its revised version, the NEP pays greater attention to industrial pollution and the need to adopt Best Available Techniques, which directly concerns mercury emissions.

The Togolese legal framework was strengthened by the 2008 Framework Law on the Environment (Law No. 2008-005), which establishes clear provisions for the control of hazardous substances. Article 112 specifies measures for monitoring chemicals, while Article 117 strictly prohibits the importation of toxic waste—provisions that implicitly encompass issues related to mercury.

On the ground, Togo has undertaken several significant actions: (i) the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) conducted in 2017, with financial support from the Global Environment Facility and technical assistance from UNITAR, provided a precise diagnosis of mercury sources in the country. The 2018-2022 National Development Plan includes specific measures to promote clean industrialization and develop alternatives to mercury in artisanal gold mining. The country actively participates in regional initiatives of ECOWAS and WAEMU to harmonize chemical regulations. However, significant challenges remain. The informal sector, particularly in artisanal gold mining, remains difficult to regulate. While national financial resources have been mobilized, they are insufficient for the full implementation of commitments. The country remains heavily dependent on international funding, particularly from the GEF for its mercury-related projects.

The forthcoming National Chemicals Management Strategy, currently under development, represents a major opportunity to strengthen this commitment. It should include: (i) a specific component dedicated to mercury, (ii) innovative financing mechanisms (a dedicated national fund, public-private partnerships), and (iii) a strengthened monitoring and control system.

Togo is thus demonstrating a genuine political will to honor its commitments under Article 13 of the Minamata Convention. The legal and political foundations are in place, but their full effectiveness will require strengthening institutional capacities and increased mobilization of both national and international resources.

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.

Within the framework of its international obligations, Togo adopts a pragmatic position regarding its participation in the Minamata Convention's financial mechanism.
The Togolese economic reality, characterized by limited resources and multiple development priorities, does not currently allow for a direct financial contribution to the Convention's multilateral fund. This situation reflects the fundamental principle of differentiation established by the agreement, which recognizes the varying capacities of the States Parties.
Nevertheless, Togo does not limit itself to a passive role. Actively and constructively, our country participates in the mechanism through: (i) the systematic sharing of our field experiences at the Conferences of the Parties, (ii) the rigorous implementation of GEF-funded pilot projects, the results of which enrich collective knowledge, (iii) contributions to regional assessments of mercury fluxes in West Africa, and (iv) the meticulous preparation of national reports that comply with the Convention's requirements.
This qualitative participation partially compensates for the lack of a financial contribution. This demonstrates Togo's sincere commitment to the Convention's objectives, within the limits of its actual capabilities.
In the medium term, with the gradual improvement of its economic situation, Togo plans to strengthen its involvement. Discussions are underway to develop: (i) a national fund dedicated to the management of hazardous chemicals, (ii) innovative partnerships with the private sector, and (iii) sustainable financing mechanisms for mercury management.
This gradual evolution illustrates Togo's willingness to assume increasing responsibilities in international environmental governance, at a pace compatible with its economic and social development.

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
In the concert of nations committed to combating mercury pollution, Togo plays a pragmatic role, marked by willpower but limited by economic constraints.
With a GDP per capita of around US$700 and more than half the population living below the poverty line, Togo focuses its limited resources on immediate social priorities—health, education, and food security. In this context, financial contributions to other countries would now represent a real challenge.
Yet, Togo's commitment remains unwavering. Through non-financial means, our country actively participates in regional cooperation: (i) by sharing expertise, (ii) by exchanging technical knowledge, and (iii) by pooling solutions.
This concrete solidarity, although non-monetary, demonstrates Togo's deep conviction that the fight against mercury must transcend borders. It also paves the way for the future. As the country's economy diversifies and strengthens, Togo is progressively considering: (i) Joint training programs with its neighbors, (ii) the creation of regional centers of excellence, (iii) innovative co-financing mechanisms for cross-border projects.

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Togo does not yet contribute financially to the international mechanism, but it is making significant efforts to maximize the impact of available resources and is laying the groundwork for more substantial future participation, in line with its economic development.

▼ 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
To date, Togo has not yet formally provided technical assistance or capacity building to another Party to the Minamata Convention. However, the country is gradually strengthening its technical and institutional expertise through the implementation of projects supported by international partners, paving the way for future regional cooperation.
It is worth noting that the actions undertaken within the framework of the Initial Minamata Assessment and the National Action Plan for the agricultural, commercial, and environmental management sector have generated significant experience. This expertise remains limited to national use for the time being, but could be shared in the medium term with other countries in the sub-region, particularly through South-South technical exchanges or regional forums.
Thus, although Togo has not yet played a role as an assistance-providing country, it is open and available to cooperate in the future with other Parties that would like to benefit from its experience in developing national strategies, carrying out inventories, or managing mercury in artisanal gold mining.

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

◉ Yes

○ No

Please specify
Since acceding to the Minamata Convention, Togo has benefited from various forms of technical assistance and capacity building, in accordance with the provisions of Article 14.
In 2018, the country conducted its Initial Minamata Assessment (IMA) with technical and financial support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This initiative strengthened the capacities of national institutions, particularly in identifying sources of mercury emissions and releases, data collection, risk analysis, and the development of a national profile summarizing the state of mercury management in Togo.
Subsequently, within the framework of the National Action Plan (NAP) for the reduction and eventual elimination of mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector, Togo again received support from UNEP, the African Centre for Environmental Health (ACEH), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This assistance has taken the form of targeted training (for investigators, consultants, and technical teams), support in developing diagnostic tools, and the organization of validation and awareness-raising workshops with stakeholders.
More recently, Togo, with UNEP support, has initiated the development of a national strategy for the phase-out of products containing added mercury, within the framework of a multilateral project involving several countries. This process also includes technical and institutional support to align the national framework with the requirements of the Convention, particularly regarding the management of mercury products and waste.
These various interventions have contributed to a lasting strengthening of the capacities of public administration, local authorities, laboratories, control services, and civil society organizations working in environmental management, health, and handicrafts.

Please provide comments, if any.
{Empty}

14.3: Has the party promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies?

◉ Yes

○ No

○ Other

Please specify
Togo has begun promoting access to environmentally friendly alternative technologies, particularly in sectors identified as potential or confirmed sources of mercury use.
As part of the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Added Mercury (EMAPE), measures have been planned to facilitate the introduction of mercury-free gold extraction technologies, such as the use of gravimetric concentrators, shaking tables, and alternative reagents. While these technologies are not yet widely implemented, efforts are underway to mobilize technical and financial partners to test and deploy them in mining communities.
In parallel, within the framework of the strategy for the elimination of products containing added mercury, Togo has initiated a national inventory of the products concerned (thermometers, blood pressure monitors, lamps, etc.), with the aim of promoting their gradual replacement with alternative products available on the international market. This is accompanied by awareness-raising activities targeting importers, health services, and consumers.
Furthermore, national environmental regulations (particularly through environmental assessments) now require industrial project developers to integrate modern technological alternatives into their processes, in accordance with the precautionary principle and the country's commitments under the Convention.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

The implementation of Article 14 of the Minamata Convention in Togo is a gradual process focused on strengthening national capacities, technical cooperation, and the transition to mercury alternatives. While the country has not yet provided direct technical assistance to other Parties, it has gained valuable experience through projects carried out with the support of UNEP and other partners.
Togo has also launched concrete actions to promote environmentally sound technologies,

particularly in the artisanal gold mining sector and the production of mercury-containing products. The gradual introduction of mercury-free alternative equipment, combined with awareness-raising activities, reflects the country's commitment to mitigating the risks associated with this hazardous substance.
Looking ahead, Togo intends to strengthen its regional exchange and cooperation mechanisms to share its experience and benefit from the expertise of other Parties, based on solidarity and mutual learning.

▼ 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.
Togo has taken several measures to inform the public about the risks associated with mercury exposure, in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the Minamata Convention.
Within the framework of the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) and the National Action Plan for the EMAPE sector, awareness-raising activities have been conducted among potentially exposed communities, including artisanal gold miners, traders of mercury-containing products, and community health workers. These activities have helped to disseminate information about the effects of mercury on human health (neurological and kidney damage, reproductive effects, etc.), particularly for women and children.
Training is underway for healthcare professionals, customs officials, and forestry agents on the detection and prevention of mercury-related risks, although this training still needs to be strengthened at the national level.

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.
Beyond public awareness campaigns, Togo has implemented several concrete measures to protect human health from the harmful effects of mercury, in accordance with Article 16 of the Minamata Convention.
In the health sector, efforts have been initiated to reduce the use of medical devices containing mercury, notably through the gradual introduction of electronic thermometers and aneroid sphygmomanometers in certain healthcare facilities. Although this transition is still incomplete, it aligns with the national strategy for eliminating products containing added mercury.
Furthermore, health authorities, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment, have participated in training and capacity-building activities for healthcare workers on the health risks associated with mercury, routes of exposure (inhalation, skin contact, ingestion), and safe handling protocols.
In mining areas, particularly within the framework of the National Action Plan for EMAPE, actions have targeted the reduction of direct worker exposure, through the promotion of good practices, the identification of risk areas, and the dissemination of prevention messages specific to vulnerable communities, including pregnant women.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Protecting human health from the effects of mercury is a growing priority in Togo's public policies. While ongoing efforts are still developing, the country has successfully combined community awareness campaigns with concrete measures in the health, crafts, and environment sectors.

The gradual integration of alternatives to mercury-containing medical devices, the training of healthcare workers, and the consideration of mercury in artisanal mining areas demonstrate a cross-sectoral commitment. Togo recognizes, however, the need to strengthen collaboration between the Ministries of Health, Environment, and Mines to broaden the scope of interventions and ensure health monitoring.
The upcoming implementation of the strategy to phase out products containing added mercury should reinforce this momentum, particularly by improving exposure monitoring and further integrating mercury management into environmental health programs.

▼ 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
Through the dissemination of the Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) report and the National Action Plan for the Management of Mercury Exposure (EMAPE), containing data on mercury sources, identified uses, regulatory gaps, and legal recommendations adapted to the national context. Contribution to regional workshops (West Africa and Francophone Africa) on best practices in mercury management, sharing national experience.

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

Information on the reduction or elimination of the production, use, trade, emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds
Exchanges of experiences during international workshops and preparatory meetings of the COPs and via the online platform of the Minamata Convention on Togo's efforts to progressively ban certain products (lamps, medical instruments containing mercury), and to regulate their trade.

☑ Information on technically and economically viable alternatives to:

Mercury-added products
Sharing, in national documents submitted to the Secretariat, examples of proposed alternatives for thermometers, sphygmomanometers, fluorescent lamps, as well as mercury-free ore processing equipment in EMAPE.

Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used
Togo does not have any nationally recognized industrial processes involving the intentional use of mercury, but remains vigilant against scattered or informal uses, particularly in the artisanal and informal sectors.

Activities and processes that emit or release mercury or mercury compounds
Togo does not have any coal-fired power plants or cement plants using processes identified in Annex D of the Convention as major sources of mercury emissions. However, the national inventory carried out as part of the MIA has laid the groundwork for more structured monitoring of these diffuse sources, with an emphasis on raising awareness and implementing preventive measures.

☑ 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))

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))
Although limited, some data have been incorporated into national reports, particularly the PAN EMAPE, on health risks observed in mining areas and among vulnerable groups.
This information is shared during national and regional consultations, with the support of partners such as CASE and UNEP.

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Togo, although lacking heavy industry as a major source of emissions identified in Annex D of the Convention, remains exposed to diffuse mercury emissions and releases from artisanal, informal, and poorly regulated activities, particularly in the metalworking, waste management, and certain artisanal processes sectors.

The initial assessment in Minamata provided a preliminary diagnosis of the sources present in the country and raised awareness among the relevant authorities about the associated risks. However, the lack of precise data and measurement tools makes it difficult to rigorously quantify current emissions and releases.

To address these gaps, the country plans to strengthen its environmental monitoring system, in collaboration with technical partners, and to develop appropriate methodologies for estimating unintentional releases and emissions. This will also help to better guide future policies for the control, technological substitution, and safe management of mercury-containing waste.

▼ ART. 18: PUBLIC INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

18.1: Have measures been taken to promote and facilitate the provision to the public of the kinds of information listed in article 18, paragraph 1?

◉ Yes

○ No

If yes, the party may wish to indicate in the space provided below, the measures it has taken to promote and facilitate information to the public, such as:
(a) Provision to the public of available information on:

☑ The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment

The effects of mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment
Togo has implemented several communication activities within the framework of the MIA and PAN-EMAPE programs to inform the population about the harmful effects of mercury. Awareness workshops have been organized for healthcare professionals, enforcement officers, and local communities. These actions have helped to disseminate scientific knowledge about mercury toxicity, particularly its neurological, immune, and renal impacts, with a special focus on children and pregnant women.

☑ Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds

Alternatives to mercury and mercury compounds
As part of the Action Plan for the Elimination of Added Mercury, the country has identified and proposed viable alternatives to mercury-containing medical equipment (thermometers and sphygmomanometers). Campaigns have been conducted to raise awareness among healthcare stakeholders about the transition to mercury-free digital equipment.

☑ The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17

The topics identified in paragraph 1 of article 17
The strategic documents (MIA and PAN-EMAPE) facilitated the flow of information on clean technologies, alternative practices, and ways to reduce mercury emissions. Togo encouraged

exchanges between institutions (ministries, universities, research centers) to strengthen the national database and decision-making process.

☑ The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19

The results of its research, development and monitoring activities under article 19
Although scientific research on mercury in Togo remains limited, the data collected under the MIA have been shared with national and international stakeholders. This includes information on the inventory of mercury sources, products in circulation, and risky practices.

☑ Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention

Activities to meet its obligations under the Convention
The PAN-EMAPE, the MIA, and the plan for implementing the Minamata Convention articles related to health within the project on mercury medical equipment document the commitments made and the results achieved to date. These documents have been made available to partners and partially shared with the public during information sessions.

(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
Togo has integrated specific training and education components on mercury risks into its various strategic plans.
Significant efforts have been made in collaboration with local NGOs, research institutes, and international partners to train healthcare professionals to recognize the symptoms of mercury poisoning and to prevent exposure through best practices.
Campaigns targeting vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, children, and informal workers, have been integrated into the National Action Plan for Mercury and Aquatic Environments (PAN-EMAPE), although their full implementation still requires additional funding.

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

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Togo has adopted a phased, multisectoral approach to meet the requirements of Article 18 of the Minamata Convention. Through the Minamata International Action Plan (MIA), the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Added Mercury (PAN-EMAPE), and the action plan for the elimination of products containing added mercury, efforts have been made to raise public awareness, train healthcare professionals, and disseminate information on the risks associated with mercury and available alternatives.

Communication campaigns have been conducted in at-risk areas and healthcare facilities. However, scaling up these actions remains contingent on the mobilization of additional resources and continued technical support from international partners. The country intends to pursue its efforts, particularly through the operationalization of the PAN-EMAPE and the systematic integration of health and communication components into national environmental and health policies.

▼ 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
The national mercury inventory carried out as part of the MIA has made it possible to document the sources of mercury emissions and releases into the air, water and soil across different sectors, including artisanal gold mining (EMAPE), products containing mercury (lamps, thermometers, dental amalgams, etc.), biomedical and municipal waste.

☑ 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
Although modeling capabilities are limited, Togo has begun collecting environmental samples (sediments, water, fish) in areas affected by marine pollution through university research.
The PAN-EMAPE program also proposes the implementation of a biomonitoring system in exposed communities, particularly for women and children in mining areas, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

☑ 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
The strategic health plan includes measures to assess the health and environmental risks associated with mercury, notably through the identification of vulnerable groups (pregnant women, children, mine workers).
The MIA proposes guidelines for integrating the cultural and economic impacts related to mercury exposure.

☑ 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 MIA used harmonized methodologies for data collection and analysis (UNEP Toolkit, Inventory Level 2) to produce a baseline for future comparative studies

☑ 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 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
The MIA and PAN-EMAPE data made it possible to map the flow of mercury in the ecosystems (soil, air, water) of the impacted areas, differentiating between historical and current releases.

☑ Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products

Information on commerce and trade in mercury and mercury compounds and mercury-added products
The MIA has identified official and unofficial channels for the importation of mercury, including informal channels linked to EMAPE.

☑ 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 PAN-EMAPE identified and proposed technical alternatives to the use of mercury in EMAPE (e.g., gravimetric concentrators), with recommendations for their gradual implementation.
The strategic health plan recommends mercury-free techniques in healthcare, including the phasing out of mercury thermometers and sphygmomanometers.

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

Part E - Additional comments on this article

Togo recognizes the strategic importance of research and monitoring for the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention. However, several structural challenges persist, including: a lack of analytical capacity for the detection and quantification of mercury in environmental and biological matrices (absence of specialized national laboratories); the limited availability of national data on mercury exposure levels among vulnerable populations, despite the identification of at-risk groups in the MIA and PAN-EMAPE; increased training needs for national researchers and technicians on biomonitoring and environmental monitoring methods for mercury; and insufficient financial resources to implement the activities planned in the various action plans on a large scale.
Togo therefore calls for strengthened international cooperation, in particular: access to GEF and Convention funding mechanisms to support research and monitoring; and the development of scientific and technical partnerships to support the implementation of PAN-EMAPE, the health plan, and the recommendations of the MIA.

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

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

Although the Minamata Convention marked a significant step forward in the fight against mercury pollution, its global implementation faces several cross-cutting challenges:

1. Inadequate monitoring and compliance mechanisms.
The Convention relies primarily on self-reporting by Parties, which can limit transparency and the effectiveness of monitoring. Submitted reports often focus on procedural aspects rather than substantive results. Strengthening compliance mechanisms, including peer reviews and the participation of non-governmental organizations, could improve transparency and accountability of Parties.

2. Gaps in coverage of major emission sources.
Some significant sources of mercury emissions, such as coal combustion in stationary facilities, are not adequately addressed by the Convention. This omission represents a missed opportunity to reduce global mercury emissions.

3. Vague Language and Lack of Specificity:
The wording of some obligations, particularly those concerning artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), lacks clarity, leaving too much room for interpretation by Member States. A more precise definition of obligations and mandates for national action plans would enhance the effectiveness of implementation.
4. Insufficient Protection of Vulnerable Groups:
The Convention does not provide specific protections for vulnerable groups, such as children exposed to mercury through ASM. Integrating human rights-based provisions and strengthening protection measures for these communities is essential.

5. Challenges Related to the Management of Mercury-Containing Waste:
The management of mercury-containing waste, including electronic and biomedical waste, remains problematic in many developing countries. The lack of adequate infrastructure and specific

regulations complicates the safe treatment of this waste, leading to risks to the environment and human health.

6. Need for capacity building and financial support.
Many countries, particularly developing countries, lack the technical and financial resources necessary to effectively implement the obligations of the Convention. Increased support, including through financing mechanisms and technology transfer, is crucial to overcoming these obstacles.

In conclusion, for the Minamata Convention to fully achieve its objectives of protecting human health and the environment from the harmful effects of mercury, it is imperative to strengthen monitoring mechanisms, expand the coverage of emission sources, clarify obligations, protect vulnerable groups, improve waste management, and provide increased support to countries requiring additional resources.

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

Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

The current reporting format is a useful tool for monitoring progress in implementing the obligations of the Minamata Convention. However, some improvements could be considered to enhance its effectiveness and user-friendliness:

Clarification of certain issues
. Some wording, particularly regarding legal measures or research activities, can be open to interpretation. It would be desirable to include more examples or explanations in the guidelines to facilitate a consistent response among Parties.

Inclusion of a specific section on vulnerable groups.
Given the importance of protecting at-risk populations, particularly in the context of EMAPE, a section dedicated to how States address the needs of these groups could be included.

Improvement of the reporting component on measurable results.
The current format places more emphasis on actions taken than on results achieved. It would be relevant to introduce performance or outcome indicators (quantitative or qualitative) to assess the effectiveness of the actions undertaken.

Interactive digital format:
An interactive digital version of the form, with drop-down menus, conditional fields, or dynamic modules, would facilitate completion, reduce errors, and improve the user experience.

Harmonization with other environmental conventions
: To reduce the reporting burden, better harmonization with the reporting systems of other multilateral environmental agreements (such as the Basel Convention or the Stockholm Convention) would allow for the sharing of certain information and ensure greater consistency between commitments.

Ability to add attachments:
Allowing Parties to attach supporting documents (studies, national reports, raw data, etc.) directly to the reporting platform would improve the transparency and richness of the information submitted.