

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix – Travail – Patrie

MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT,
DE LA PROTECTION DE LA NATURE
ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

DIRECTION DES NORMES
ET DU CONTROLE

CONVENTION DE MINAMATA
SUR LE MERCURE



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace – Work – Fatherland

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
PROTECTION OF NATURE AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF STANDARDS
AND CONTROL

MINAMATA CONVENTION
ON MERCURY

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LE MINISTRE

THE MINISTER

A/TO

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Executive Secretary

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

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Subject: Submission of informations related on follow-up the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention at its third meeting (COP 3), Geneva, Switzerland, 25 to 29 November 2019

Referring to the Minamata Convention COP 3 decision concerning specifically the proposal of amendement of Annex A of the Convention,

Cameroon have the honour to express its solidarity and support for the regional submission of the African Group on this issue before presenting its specific comments below with regard of its national situation.

At the level of the country;

- about 25% of dentists use alternatives to dental amalgams (widely available on the national market), while 75% use both alternatives and dental amalgams;
- 83% of the dental amalgams used are in encapsulated form;
- the ease with which dentist place dental amalgam and its low cost are the main reasons why most dentist prefer these routes. However, certain dentist, who, because of their professional ethics, voluntarily decide to put an end to this practice;
- None of the dental clinic use or has a dental amalgam separator. This is to reduce mercury pollution resulting from services rendered.

The two main obstacles to overcome in order to ensure a complete transition and a technological leap from local dentistry to mercury-free dentistry within to the implementation of Minamata Convention are:

1. The lack of dexterity and competence of the dentists (individually) to conveniently use mercury-free alternatives on patients, and;
2. The low cost of dental amalgams, which is not in reality if all externalities are taken into account (harmful effects of mercury pollution from mercury in amalgams).

These two obstacles can be overcome through capacity building and cooperation (as mandated by the Minamata Convention on Mercury) one hand, and the adoption of specific regulations on dental amalgams by the Ministry of Public Health, on the other hand.

The following measures were proposed and supported by all national stakeholders during the implementation of the MIA project, these include;

- By January 1, 2020: partial ban on the use of dental amalgams in children, pregnant women and vulnerable patients;
- By January 1, 2025: total ban on dental amalgam for all;
- By January 1, 2025: capacity building for dentists through the Cameroon National Dental Council to use alternative materials and skills sharing activities;
- From now on: awareness raising in the faculty of dental medicine in both state and private medical institutions in the country, on the future of amalgam and the need to update training programs.

These proposals from national stakeholders have been transposed into a draft specific national regulatory on dental amalgams submitted to decision-makers.



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