



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

**MINISTRY OF LAND AND ENVIRONMENT
NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT**

To:

**Minamata Convention Secretariat, mea_minamatasecretariat@un.org
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Geneva, Switzerland**

Ref.^a /MTA/ /DINAB/GDN/21

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SUBJECT: Measures to Phase Down Amalgam Use and to Transition to Mercury-Free Dentistry

Dear Sir

Mozambique adopted and signed the Minamata Convention on Mercury at the Plenipotentiary Conference, in Minamata, Kumamoto, Japan, on 10 October 2013. The Ministry of Land and Environment (MTA) is the entity responsible for the implementation of this Convention and since then it has been making efforts to ratify this Convention, as for example the Preparation of the Initial Assessment of Minamata (MIA) and the Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small Gold Scale Mining sector (NAP). This project *``Measures to reduce the use of amalgam and make the transition to dentistry without Mercury``* will assist our government in the process of ratifying of the convention.

Mozambique supports a transition to Mercury-Free Dentistry. Amalgam use needs to phase down, because:(1) it is a major Mercury pollutant, (2) the costs of Mercury waste management are too high, (3) Dental Mercury poisons the food children eat; (4) amalgam is a health risk to children, pregnant women, and breastfeeding women, and (5) placing amalgam is a workplace risk to dentists and dental workers; and (6) the alternatives are available, modern, and superior.

Our country has taken the following measures to phase down the use of Dental Amalgam and initiate the transition to Mercury-Free Dentistry:

- Cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as other NGOs involved in this process, for the protection of human health in relation to Mercury and

the inclusion in those of the country in the roles played under the relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

- Elimination of the use of Dental Amalgams and appliances with Mercury in the health sector;
- Conducting awareness campaigns for all target groups in relation to the danger that Dental Amalgam poses to health and the environment;
- Strengthening of waste management units contaminated by Mercury in rural and urban communities, with a view to preventing exposure to Mercury of vulnerable populations, especially pregnant women and children.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, whose address and contact are bellow for correspondence.

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