

Annex to decision MC-1/8

Reporting format for the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Reporting on measures to be taken to implement the provisions of the Convention, the effectiveness of such measures and the challenges encountered

INSTRUCTIONS

Pursuant to article 21 of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, each party to the Convention shall report to the Conference of the Parties on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Convention, on the effectiveness of such measures and on possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention.

Parties are requested to use the attached reporting format to report in accordance with article 21. An electronic version of the format is available for download from the Convention home page: <http://www.mercuryconvention.org>. Hard copies and electronic versions in CD format are also available upon request from the secretariat (see below for contact details). Subsequent to the submission of each party's first report, the secretariat will send out an electronic version of the party's previous report so that it can be updated as appropriate.

Part A of the reporting format calls for general information on the party for which the report is being submitted, such as the name and contact details of the national focal point or the contact officer submitting the report on behalf of the party. It is expected that the national focal point will have been designated by the party in accordance with article 17, paragraph 4, of the Convention. It is important that all relevant information be provided in order to assist the secretariat in identifying the completed report.

Part B of the format calls for information on the measures taken by the reporting party to implement the relevant provisions of the Minamata Convention and on the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention. Note that the effectiveness of implementing measures that are described by a party is separate from the evaluation of the effectiveness of the treaty under article 22. Description of the effectiveness of the implementing measures should be provided based on a party's particular situation and capabilities, but should nevertheless be handled as consistently as possible in the party's report. Mandatory information forms the core of the reporting format. As noted, additional information would facilitate the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention and additional questions have been added to obtain this information. These additional questions are identified as supplemental information and responses can be provided voluntarily at the party's discretion, but parties are strongly encouraged to complete these aspects where they have relevant information.

Part C provides an opportunity to comment on possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention.

Part D provides an opportunity to comment on the reporting format and possible improvements.

Part E provides an opportunity to provide additional comments on each of the articles in free text if the party chooses to do so. In implementing an electronic format, the opportunity for comment would be available throughout part B of the reporting format, with links from each article.

Additional information to supplement that requested may be attached.

The reporting forms must be submitted to the Conference of the Parties through the Minamata Convention secretariat in any of the six official languages of the United Nations. Further information and assistance may be sought from the secretariat at the following address:

Secretariat for the Minamata Convention

United Nations Environment Programme

Internet home page: www.mercuryconvention.org

Part A

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY NATIONAL REPORT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 21	
1. INFORMATION ON THE PARTY	
Name of party	GUYANA
Date on which its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance was deposited	<i>(day/month/year)</i> 24/09/2014
Date of entry into force of the Convention for the party	<i>(day/month/year)</i> 16/08/2017
2. INFORMATION ON THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT	
Full name of the institution	THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Name and title of contact officer	MARISCIA CHARLES, POLICY ANALYST
Mailing address	96 DUKE STREET KINGSTON, GEORGETOWN, GUYANA
Telephone number	592-231-2519 ext. 205
Fax number	-
E-mail	mcharles@nre.gov.gy
Web page	https://nre.gov.gy
3. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTACT OFFICER SUBMITTING THE REPORTING FORMAT IF DIFFERENT FROM THE ABOVE	
Full name of the institution	MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Name and title of contact officer	JOSLYN MCKENZIE, PERMANENT SECRETARY
Mailing address	96 DUKE STREET KINGSTON, GEORGETOWN, GUYANA
Telephone number	(592)231-2519 ext 213
Fax number	-
E-mail	jmckenzie@nre.gov.gy
Web page	https://nre.gov.gy
4. DATE THE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED	<i>(day/month/year)</i> 11/01/2020

Part B

Article 3: Mercury supply sources and trade

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? (Para. 3.)

Yes

No

If **yes**, please indicate:

- a) The anticipated date of closure of the mine(s): (*month, year*) OR
- b) The date upon which the mine(s) closed: (*month, year*)
- c) *Total amount mined _____ metric tons per year

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? (Para. 3, para. 11.)

Yes

No

If **yes**, please explain.

3. Has the party endeavoured to identify individual stocks of mercury or mercury compounds exceeding 50 metric tons and sources of mercury supply generating stocks exceeding 10 metric tons per year that are located within its territory? (Para. 5.)

Yes

No

a) *If the party answered Yes to Question 3 above:

- i. Please attach the results of your endeavour or indicate where it is available on the internet, unless unchanged from a previous reporting round.
- ii. Supplemental: Please provide any related information, for example on the use or disposal of mercury from such stocks and sources.

b) If the party answered No above, please explain.

Guyana has made significant efforts to limit and manage the importation of mercury for the use in the ASGM sector. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on August 30, 2019 with key regulatory agencies to coordinate and manage the importation of mercury for use in the ASGM sector. The MOU sets out a base quota for mercury importation at 1000 flasks (34,500 kg or 34.5 metric tons) commencing in 2019 with a gradual reduction as alternative techniques and technologies become available. It also limits importers to allocated 150 flasks per year permitted under 2 six-month consignments.

4. Does the party have excess mercury available from the decommissioning of chlor-alkali facilities? (Para. 5. (b).)

Yes

No – Not Applicable

If **yes**, please explain the measures taken to ensure that the excess mercury was disposed of in accordance with the guidelines for environmentally sound management referred to in paragraph 3 (a) of article 11 using operations that did not lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct re-use or alternative uses. (Para. 5 (b), para. 11.)

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. (Para. 6, para. 7.)

Yes, exports to parties

Yes, exports to non-parties:

No **X - Not applicable**

If **yes**,

a. and the party has submitted copies of the consent forms to the secretariat, then no further information is needed.

If the party has not previously provided such copies, it is recommended that it do so.

Otherwise, please provide other suitable information showing that the relevant requirements of paragraph 6 of article 3 have been met.

Supplemental: please provide information on the use of the exported mercury.

b. If exports were based on a general notification in accordance with article 3, paragraph 7, please indicate, if available, the total amount exported and any relevant terms or conditions in the general notification related to use.

1. Has the party allowed the import of mercury from a non-party?

No

Yes

If **yes**, and the party has submitted copies of the consent forms to the secretariat, then no further information is needed.

If the party has not previously provided such copies, it is recommended that it do so.

Otherwise, please provide other suitable information showing that the relevant requirements of paragraph 8 of article 3 have been met.

Supplemental: Please provide information on the quantities and countries of origin.

Upon entry into force of the Convention for the Party (16/08/2017) and from 2017 to date, the party has allowed the importation of mercury from the Russian Federation and Turkey who are non-parties to the Convention. Unfortunately, given the standing operating procedure in Guyana for mercury importation, no consent forms have been requested or are in the country's receipt. This loophole in our compliance efforts will be addressed with urgency. Since the entry into force, the total amount of mercury imported from the non-parties are as follows:

- **Russian Federation: 200 flasks (6,900 kg)**
- **Turkey: 500 flasks (17,250 kg)**

The importing party has relied on paragraph 7 of article 3.

If yes, or if the party relied on paragraph 7 of article 3, did the non-party provide certification that the mercury is not from sources identified under paragraph 3 or paragraph 5 (b) of article 3? (Para. 8.)

Yes

No

The party has submitted its general notification of consent, applied paragraph 9 of article 3, and provided information on the quantities and countries of origin.

If **no**, please explain.

Article 4: Mercury-added products

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? (Para.1.)

(If the party is implementing paragraph 2, please skip to question 2.)

Yes

No

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures.

The Ministry of Public Health has ceased the use of mercury sphygmomanometer. The use of mercury filled lamps are also being phased out. These lamps are replaced with LED lights

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

Yes

No

If **yes**, for which products (please list)? (Para. 1, para. 2 (d).)

2. If **yes** (implementing paragraph 2 of article 4): (Para. 2.)

Has the party reported to the Conference of the Parties at the first opportunity a description of the measures or strategies implemented, including a quantification of the reductions achieved?

(Para. 2 (a).)

Yes

No

Has the party implemented measures or strategies to reduce the use of mercury in any products listed in Part I of Annex A for which a de minimis value has not yet been obtained? (Para. 2 (b).)

Yes

No

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures.

Has the party considered additional measures to achieve further reductions? (Para. 2 (c).)

Yes

No

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures.

3. Has the party taken two or more measures for the mercury-added products listed in Part II of Annex A in accordance with the provisions set out therein? (Para. 3.)

Yes

No

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures.

- **The Government of Guyana has ceased the procurement of dental amalgam**
- **With the realisation of the number of children and pregnant women with mercury and the effects of the use, in mid-2018, the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in Guyana integrated adaptive**

measures towards the control and use of dental amalgam with the first target being children and pregnant women. Currently, school children and pregnant women use alternatives and only in extreme cases (molar and badly destroyed teeth dental amalgam is used). Alternatives are used for anterior teeth and premolars.

- **MOPH to draft and execute a comprehensive Public Awareness Strategy to inform and educate students, health care professionals, private businesses, traders on the alternatives through mass and social media, town hall meetings, radio programmes on alternatives to dental amalgam**

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 under article 4? (Para. 5.)

Yes

No

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures.

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? (Para. 6.)

Yes

No

If **yes**, please provide information on the measures taken.

If **no**, has there been an assessment of the risks and benefits of the product that demonstrates environmental or health benefits? Has the party provided to the secretariat, as appropriate, information on any such product?

Yes

No

If **yes**, please name the product: _____

Article 5: Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used

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? (Para. 5.)

Yes

No – Not applicable

Do not know (*please explain*)

If **yes**, please provide information on measures taken to address emissions and releases of mercury or mercury compounds from such facilities.

If available, please provide information on the number and type of facilities and the estimated annual amount of mercury or mercury compounds used in those facilities.

Please provide information on how much mercury (in metric tons) is used in the processes listed in the two first entries of Part II of Annex B in the last year of the reporting period.

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? (Para. 2.)

Chlor-alkali production:

Yes

No

Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

Acetaldehyde production in which mercury or mercury compounds are used as a catalyst:

Yes

No

Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

If **no** to either of the questions above, has the party registered for an exemption pursuant to article 6?

Yes

No

If **yes**, for which process(es)? *(please list)*

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? (Para. 3.)

Vinyl chloride monomer production:

Yes

No

Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

Sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate:

Yes

No

Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

Production of polyurethane using mercury-containing catalysts:

Yes

No

Not applicable (do not have these facilities)

If **yes**, please provide information on these measures.

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? (Para. 6.)

Yes

No

If **yes**, please explain the circumstances.

5. Is there any facility that has been developed 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? (Para. 7.)

Yes

No

If **yes**, please provide information on how the party tried to discourage this development or that the party has demonstrated the environmental and health

benefits to the Conference of the Parties and that there are no technically and economically feasible mercury-free alternatives available providing such benefits.

Article 7: Artisanal and small-scale gold mining

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? (Para. 2.)

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.

- **The establishment of standards for emissions and releases (in progress)**
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the regulatory agencies for the management and importation of mercury for use in the ASGM sector**
- **Research and testing of emissions and releases**
- **Development of the National Action Plan for the ASGM sector**
- **Capping and restricting the amount of mercury imported in Guyana**
- **Demonstrations and consultations of alternative technologies for mining**
- **Enforcement and oversight of worst practices as per Annex C. Guyana has taken steps to eliminate the worst practices in the ASGM sector, which is ‘whole ore’ amalgamation, such as using copper-amalgamation plates and using mercury in mining pits and sluice boxes. Compliance efforts have been enhanced to ensure that miners in the ASGM sector acquire and properly use retorts, respirators and gloves when handling and using mercury. Guyana has taken initiatives in making retorts available at subsidised cost throughout several mining stations close to mining sites in order to encourage miners to acquire and use retorts. An information brochure is also being distributed on benefits and proper use of the retort.**
- **The promulgation of the Mining (Amendment) Regulations 2005 which is being enforced, make these practices unlawful and with attending penalties for noncompliance. The Regulations make monitoring in these areas more meaningful and objective.**

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

If **no**, please proceed to article 8 on emissions

3. Has the party developed and implemented a national action plan and submitted it to the secretariat? (Para. 3 (a), para. 3 (b).)

Yes

No

In progress (work is ongoing on the preparation of the NAP, which is to be completed by the end of 2020)

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

5. Supplemental: Has the party cooperated with other countries or relevant intergovernmental organizations or other entities to achieve the objective of this article? (Para. 4.)

Yes

X No (However, collaborative projects are with local UNDP and NGOs, such as Conservation International-Guyana) and World Wildlife Fund-Guyana; UNDP and other NGOs to address issues in keeping with the articles of the Convention.)

If yes, please provide information.

Article 8: Emissions

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.

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? (Para. 4.)

Yes

No (*please explain*)

The Party has taken initiatives to address mercury emissions from several gold shops located in towns and in mining areas. There was also a collaboration with Mercer University of the U.S.A. to measure emissions from gold shops in the towns of Georgetown and Bartica. The collaboration focused on developing agency competencies in both the collection and interpretation of scientific data in the field. This collaboration utilised the experience of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission in addressing the technical aspects and environmental ramifications of Guyanese mining, and Mercer's experience in conducting environmental analyses of mercury emissions in ASGM communities.

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:

A quantified goal for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources;

X Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources;

- **Commenced the process to develop standards for emissions.**

Emission limit values for controlling and, where feasible, reducing emissions from relevant sources;

Use of BAT/BEP to control emissions from relevant sources;

- **Environmental Permit required the installation of best available technology to reduce emissions. Testing to be scheduled to determine effectiveness.**

- Multi-pollutant control strategy that would deliver co-benefits for control of mercury emissions;
- Alternative measures to reduce emissions from relevant sources.

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?

X Yes

No (please explain)

3. Has the party prepared an inventory of emissions from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the Convention for it? (Para. 7.)

X Yes

No

Have not been a party for 5 years

If **yes**, when was the inventory last updated? **As per research, last 2018**

Please indicate where this inventory is available. **The Minamata Initial Assessment completed in 2016.**

If no such inventory exists, please explain.

4. Has the party chosen to establish criteria to identify relevant sources covered within a source category? (Para. 2 (b).)

Yes

X 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.

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? (Para. 3.)

Yes

X 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 (*please explain*)

Article 9: Releases

1. Are there, within the party's territory, relevant sources of releases as defined in paragraph 2 (b) of article 9? (Para. 4.)

Yes

X No

Do not know (*please explain*)

If **yes**, please indicate the measures taken to address releases from relevant sources and the effectiveness of those measures. (Para. 5.)

2. Has the party established an inventory of releases from relevant sources within 5 years of entry into force of the convention for it? (Para. 6.)

X Yes

Relevant sources do not exist in the territory

Have not been a party for 5 years

No (*please explain*)

If **yes**, when was the inventory last updated? **As per research, last 2018**

Please indicate where the information is available. **The Minamata Initial Assessment completed in 2016.**

Article 10: Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury

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? (Para 2.)

Yes

No

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.

- **The site used for the interim storage of mercury now requires an Environmental Authorisation from the Environmental Protection Agency and location permit from the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CH&PA) (the agency responsible for the zoning of the country) prior to importation, transportation and storage. CH&PA and EPA require that the storage facility is not located in sensitive areas (e.g. residential areas), and all mercury is stored in suitable containers and under storage conditions required by the Material Safety Data Sheet.**

Article 11: Mercury wastes

1. Have measures outlined in article 11, paragraph 3, been implemented for the party's mercury waste? (Para. 3.)

Yes

No (The Party is in the process of establishing the locations and sources of mercury wastes, especially for wastes of the ASGM sector)

If **yes**, please describe the measures implemented pursuant to paragraph 3, and please also describe the effectiveness of those measures.

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

Yes

No (There is currently no established facility for the final disposal of waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds)

Do not know (*please explain*)

If **yes**, if the information is available, how much waste consisting of mercury or mercury compounds has been subjected to final disposal under the reporting period? Please specify the method of the final disposal operation/operations.

Article 12: Contaminated sites

1. Has the party endeavoured to develop strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds in its territory? (Para. 1.)

Yes

No (Initiatives are being developed to assess ASGM sites that are likely to be contaminated with mercury based on the waste threshold for tailings as per guidances.

Please elaborate

Article 13: Financial resources and mechanism

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? (Para. 1.)

Yes (please specify)

No (please specify why not)

Please provide comments, if any.

Provisions under the yearly budget of the implementing agencies to implement, complement or augment efforts for the implementation of the Convention in alignment with each agency's mandate, the country's Green State Development Strategy and Agenda 2030 – Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Supplemental: Has the party, within its capabilities, contributed to the mechanism referred to in paragraph 5 of article 13? (Para. 12.)

(Please tick one box only)

Yes (please specify)

No (please specify why not) – Less developed country and financially challenged

Please provide comments, if any.

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? (Para. 3.)

(Please tick one box only)

Yes (please specify)

No (please specify why not) – Less developed country

Please provide comments, if any.

Article 14: Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer

1. Has the party cooperated to provide capacity-building or technical assistance, pursuant to article 14, to another party to the Convention? (Para. 1.)

Yes (Please specify)

No (Please specify) – Less developed country and lacks the full capacity to provide same

2. Supplemental: Has the party received capacity-building or technical assistance pursuant to article 14? (Para. 1.)

Yes (please specify) – Technical officers from the Ministries of Natural Resources and Public Health, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission have participated in Mercury effects on human health and the environment and Considerations under the Minamata Convention administered by the Virtual Campus for Public Health (VCPH/PAHO). Additionally, one mining organisation participated in the regional workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean under the project, “Building Local to Global Coalitions for Chemicals and Waste Management, Towards Zero Mercury Use, Supply, Trade and Emissions” facilitated by the European Environmental Bureau/ Zero Mercury Working Group (EEB-ZMWG), with support from the GEF Small Grants Program,

No (Please specify)

Please provide comments, if any.

3. Has the party promoted and facilitated the development, transfer and diffusion of and access to, up-to-date environmentally sound alternative technologies? (Para. 3.)

(Please tick one box only)

Yes (please specify) Facilitated a presentation by Gocom Engineering Design Co Limited, on mercury free technology available by their company

Nationally, demonstrations of alternatives technologies are being continuously being conducted by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission. The Commission, however, is struggling with the uptake of the alternatives due to the cost of the technology. Cost and behavioural change are the two biggest determining factors for the uptake and adaptation of the technology.

- No (please specify why not)
 Other (please provide information)

Article 16: Health aspects

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 – This activity will commence in 2020, tentatively in the second quarter.

Supplemental: If **yes**, describe the measures that have been taken.

2. Have any other measures been taken to protect human health in accordance with article 16?
(Para. 1.)

Yes

No

Supplemental: If **yes**, describe the measures that have been taken. **Informally, through stakeholder consultations and public outreaches. However, the majority of the population, more specifically directly and indirectly in the mining sector have not been reached.**

Article 17: Information exchange

1. Has the party facilitated the exchange of information referred to in article 17, paragraph 1? (Para. 1.)

Yes

No

Please provide more information, if any.

At the national level, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in August 2019 between the main stakeholders in the mercury landscape in Guyana – the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission and the Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Control Board- to coordinate and enhance the procedures for management of the importation, storage, distribution, use and disposal and provisions for clean-up in the event of an accident or spill, of mercury. Within the agreement, the stakeholders have committed to share information oversight and responsibility for the management and importation of mercury.

Article 18: Public information, awareness and education

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? (Para. 1.)

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate the measures that have been taken and the effectiveness of those measures?

- **Press releases and interviews and Op-Eds on the Minamata Convention and the Government's efforts for an effective implementation.**
- **Through other mercury projects in the country there have been infographics, radio and television appearances and video productions in mainstream and social media. These projects align with the objectives and the articles of the Minamata Convention. For example, planetGOLD Guyana child's project -Supply Chain Approach to Eliminating Mercury in Guyana's Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector: El Dorado Gold Jewellery - Made in Guyana. The objective of the project is to assist Guyana with converting to mercury-free mining by 2025 by directly involving business enterprises with a profit motive in leading the shift in the development of a mercury-free ASGM supply chain and downstream El Dorado Gold brand jewelry.**

Article 19: Research, development and monitoring

1. Has the party undertaken any research, development and monitoring in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 19? (Para. 1.)

Yes

No

If **yes**, please describe these actions. Guyana has conducted research on:

- **Mercury Assessment of fish and soil in the Port Kaituma River (July, 2019)**
- **The Mercer on Missions and Guyana Geology and Mines Commission project – Ambient and Indoor Air quality monitoring for mercury in Bartica (May, 2019)**
- **Guyana Geology and Mines Commission – Mercury assessment of ambient and indoor air and soil in Bartica (December, 2018)**
- **Investigation into the mercury contamination of Port Kaituma River (August, 2018)**
- **Monitoring Indoor Air Quality: An Investigation into The Level of Human Exposure to Mercury Vapours in The Mining Town of Bartica, Guyana, South America. (August, 2018)**

Part C: Comments regarding possible challenges in meeting the objectives of the Convention (Art. 21, para. 1)

In Guyana, the use of mercury is more than insignificant in the ASGM sector; as a result, article 7 is, directly, most relevant to the Guyanese situation. The mining landscape in Guyana is quite peculiar given its scattered across the 83,000 square miles in the four natural regions whose topography, accessibility and terrain are different. As a result, our efforts are sometimes stymied because of access to the locations for verification, monitoring and enforcement. The country still suffers a deficit in capacity, be it financial, institutional and technical, for the transition and incorporation of the Convention to policy then programme. Additionally, the country's implementation challenges are further compounded by the inertia of stakeholders for behavioural change and lack of national will by a large section of the population.

Supplemental: Part D: Comments regarding the reporting format and possible improvements, if any

Some categories were not applicable to the situation in Guyana; however, there was no option of not applicable. As a result, the country was forced to select the option of 'No', which is not reflective of the situation in the country. This may be understood as the countries has not made any efforts to address that component of mercury use in the country.