The Republic of Armenia ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury on October 6, 2017 and has undertaken numerous efforts to implement the Convention. However, for the Republic of Armenia to meet the obligations stipulated by the Convention, there are several barriers, in particular: lack of institutional capacity; gaps of appropriate legislative framework to support Minamata Convention provisions; low awareness of health risks associated with mercury amongst the public and Government officials; and limited occupational safety mechanisms and other measures in place to reduce communities’ exposure to mercury.

With the support of the Specific International Programme, Armenia anticipates strengthening capacities to implement its obligations under the Minamata Convention. This will be achieved through the determination of mercury-containing lamps streams, including import, distribution, use and amounts of wastes generated per year in order to prepare a strategy for sound collection, storage, transportation, and processing of mercury-containing products, as well as for consideration in further calculations of costs required to phase-out mercury-containing waste lamps.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the project is to strengthen capacities to promote the phasing-out of mercury-added products (lamps) in Armenia by reviewing and analyzing legislation relevant to mercury and subsequently preparing new legislation for avoiding the use of mercury-added product (lamps).

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The Republic of Armenia ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury on October 6, 2017 and has undertaken numerous efforts to implement the Convention. However, for the Republic of Armenia to meet the obligations stipulated by the Convention, there are several barriers, in particular: lack of institutional capacity; gaps of appropriate legislative framework to support Minamata Convention provisions; low awareness of health risks associated with mercury amongst the public and Government officials; and limited occupational safety mechanisms and other measures in place to reduce communities’ exposure to mercury.

With the support of the Specific International Programme, Armenia anticipates strengthening capacities to implement its obligations under the Minamata Convention. This will be achieved through the determination of mercury-containing lamps streams, including import, distribution, use and amounts of wastes generated per year in order to prepare a strategy for sound collection, storage, transportation, and processing of mercury-containing products, as well as for consideration in further calculations of costs required to phase-out mercury-containing waste lamps.

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

An Inter-ministerial Group will serve as the Project Steering Committee (PSC) of this project. It will be chaired by the Ministry of Nature Protection. A Technical Working Group (TWG) may also be formed to discuss technical issues that may arise during project implementation. The Hazardous Substances and Waste Policy Division of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia (HSWMD) will be the coordinating agency for the project as it is the national focal point for the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Armenia. The Environmental Monitoring and Information Center (EMIC), a state non-commercial organization under the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, will be the project delivery organization. A Project Management Team (PMT) will be set up to ensure adequate organizational structure and facilitate day-to-day monitoring of implementation progress based on the project’s annual work plan and its indicators.

**PROJECT RESULTS**

**MEASURE 1**

The determination of mercury-containing lamps streams, including import, distribution, use and amounts of wastes generated per year.

**MEASURE 2**

Review and Up-date of Mercury Relevant Legislation

**MEASURE 3**

Strategy Development for Sound Collection, Storage, Transportation, and Processing of Mercury-Containing Waste Lamps

**MEASURE 4**

Monitoring and evaluation and financial audit

**RELEVANT SDGs**

3. Good health and well-being
5. Gender equality
7. Responsible consumption and production
12. Sustainable cities and communities

**Contact**

Anahit Aleksandryan
Head of Hazardous Substances and Wastes Policy Division
Ministry of Nature Protection - Armenia
Email: anahit.aleksandryan@mop.am

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury
E-mail: MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org